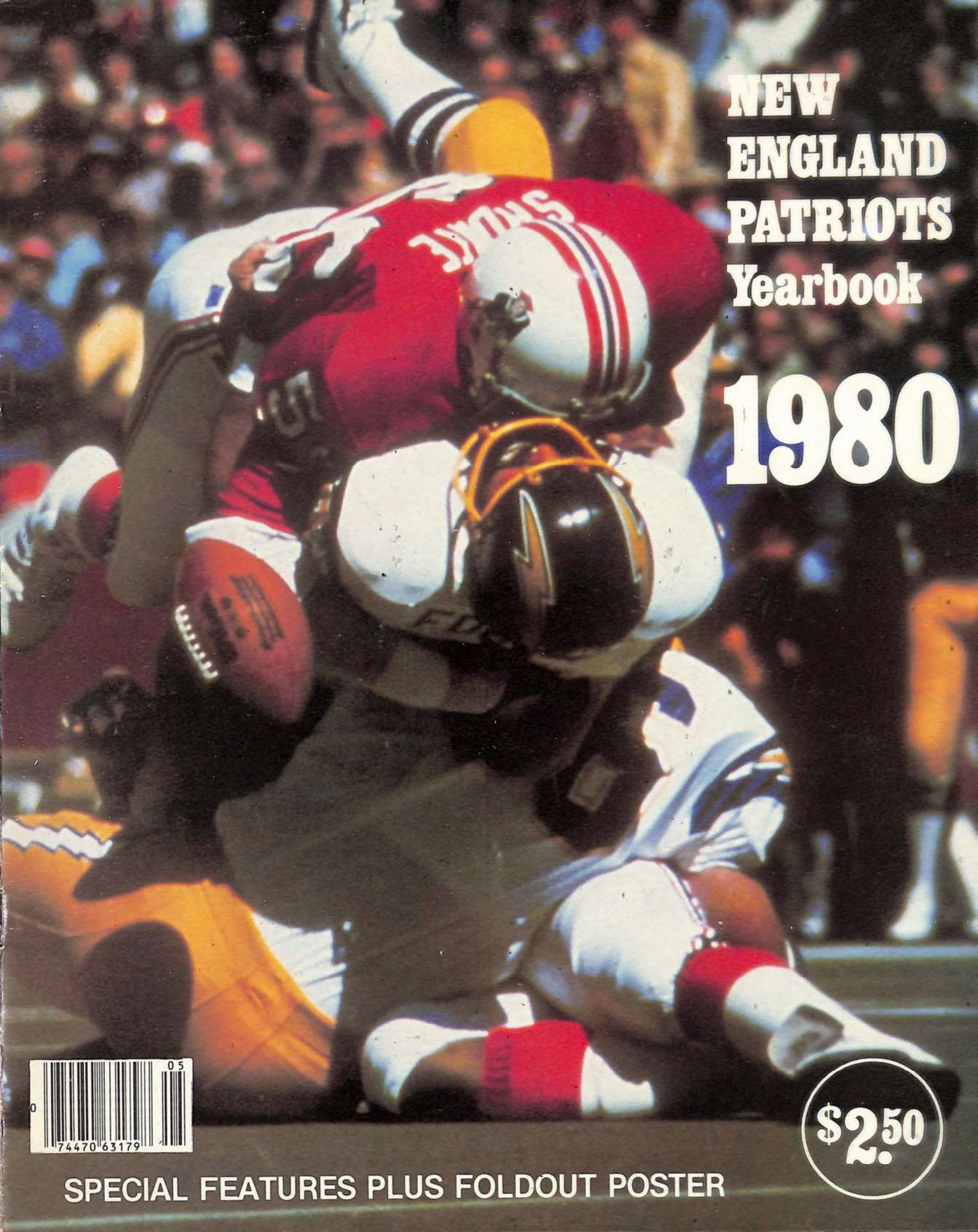

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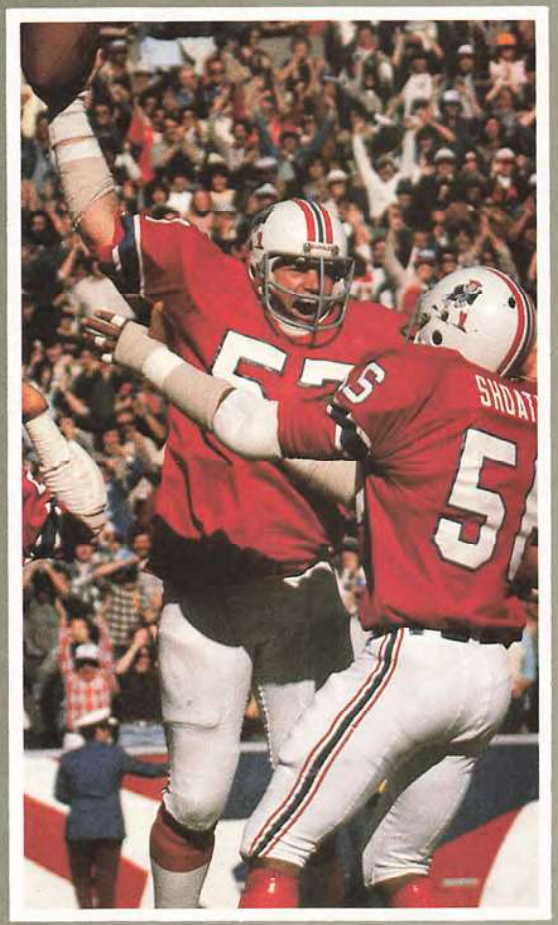
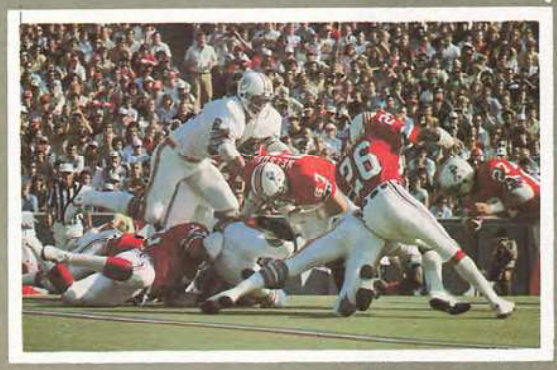
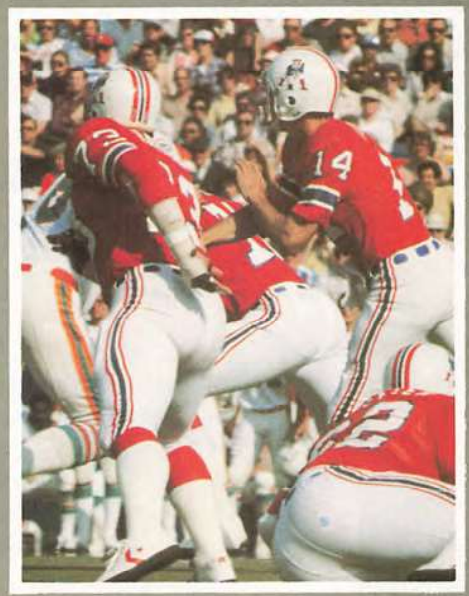
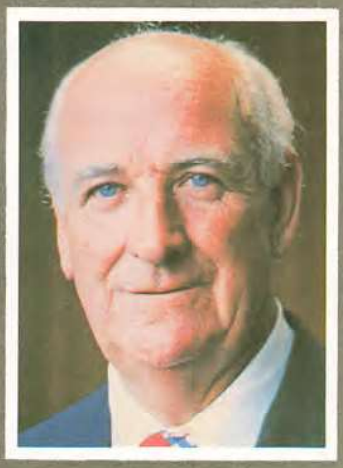
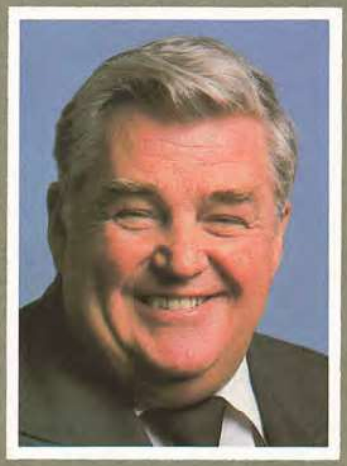










William H. Sullivan, Jr. - President

If there is one man synonymous with the American Football Conference, it is Billy Sullivan, the Patriots' president since the team was founded back in 1959.

It was on November 18 of that year that Billy was awarded the eighth franchise in the embryonic American Football League. He was the league's president from 1961 to 1964, and served on the television committee that authored a $36 million contract with NBC to guarantee the young league's survival. He was also a pivotal member of the AFL group which negotiated the ultimate merger with the NFL to form a superleague stretching from coast to coast and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

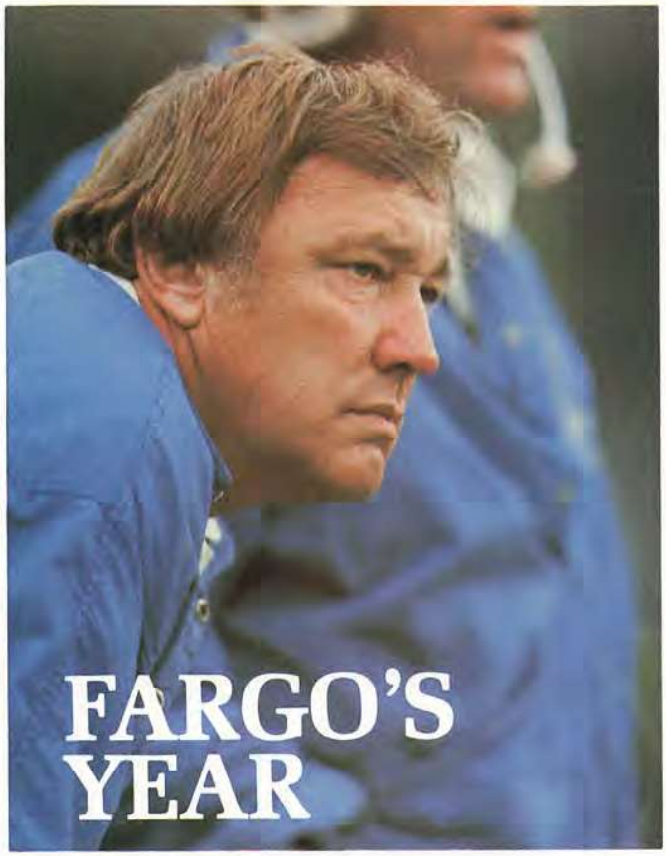
A 1937 graduate of Boston College, Billy served as publicity director at his alma mater from 1938 to 1940. After holding down posts at Notre Dame and the U.S. Naval Academy in the early Forties, Billy became director of public relations for the old Boston Braves in 1946. He joined the Metropolitan Petroleum Company in 1955 and became the firm's president in 1958. He's now vice president of the parent Pittston Company, and holds numerous directorships with business concerns, banks, and charities. But Billy Sullivan is best known outside the corporate world as the spirit of the AFL — long since merged with the older NFL — and of the New England Patriots, one of the strongest franchises in professional football. Billy and his wife of these many years, the former Mary Malone, are the parents of six children.

Francis J. "Bucko" Kilroy - General Manager

One of the shrewdest executives in professional football, Bucko Kilroy has played a vital role in establishing the Patriots as one of the strongest organizations in the NFL.

And he learned the game in the trenches. A Philadelphia native, Bucko was one of the all-time great linemen at Temple. He turned pro with his hometown team, the Eagles, in 1943, and played for 13 straight seasons, at one juncture chalking up a streak of 146 consecutive games played. Bucko was an all-pro, a member of the NFL's all-decade team for the 1940's, and has been ensconsed in the Helms Hall of Fame.

After winding up his playing career, Bucko served with the administrations of the Eagles, Redskins, and Cowboys before joining the Patriots as player personnel director under General Manager Upton Bell. Since then, Bucko has earned his reputation as the man whose shrewd eye for talent has contributed materially to the development of a winning franchise in New England.



FARGO'S YEAR

The man from North Dakota puts his winning habit on the line at Foxboro.

For whatever it may produce in terms of wins and losses, highs and heartaches, one thing is indisputable about 1980 for the New England Patriots: for better or worse, it's Fargo's year.

Actually, this is year eight at Schaefer Stadium for "Fargo," a.k.a. Ron Erhardt, the big, friendly North Dakotan who earned his stripes in New England as the architect of one of the most formidable offensive machines in recent NFL history.

He spent his first six years in Foxboro as a valued assistant to Chuck Fairbanks. Then came the pivotal seventh year. When Fairbanks departed, Erhardt became his successor as head coach, and it became his primary task to restore a sense of purpose to the band of confused and frustrated men who came stumbling out of the wreckage of the 1978 season after everything caved in at playoff time.

It was not an easy transition, and a big part of the task for everyone involved was the adjustment from the solemn and austere Fairbanks style to Erhardt's warm, down-to-earth approach. The entire Patriots organization, from locker room to front office staff, had grown comfortable with the *persona* of Erhardt the subordinate, and had to get reacquainted with the man in his new role.

The players quickly discovered that Fargo had no intention of going uptown on them. As an assistant, he had roamed among them on the practice field, pulling and shoving and cajoling like a good-natured bear. As the head man, he has remained friendly and accessible without leaving any doubt that he's in charge.

Erhardt's public image was something else again. As 1979 began, that image was virtually nonexistent, and when he was annointed as Fairbanks' successor, fans throughout New England were wondering who he was. For those familiar with Erhardt's background, one answer jumped quickly to mind: he was a guy who knew how to win football games.

Ron came into the NFL in 1973 on the wings of coaching records in high school and college which would have made Lombardi or Rockne proud. Himself a three-sport star at Jamestown (N.D.) High School, Erhardt began his head coaching career at St. Mary's High School in (prophetically) New England, North Dakota, in 1957, and served later as mentor at Bishop Ryan High in Minot, North Dakota. In six years as a high school coach, Erhardt stitched together a record of 45-9-2.

When he stepped up to the collegiate level, things got even better. As head coach at North Dakota State, Erhardt put together a seven-year slate of 58-6-1 in

regular season play and 3-1-0 in postseason activity. Over one 4-year stretch, his teams won 35 of 36 games.

Ron entered pro coaching in 1973 as the Patriots' offensive backfield coach, assuming the role of offensive coordinator with the departure of Red Miller for Denver in 1977. A year later, the Pats attained the best team rushing record in NFL history, rolling up 3,165 yards on the ground while leading the league in total offense with a per-game average of 372.8 yards.

These were the man's credentials at the beginning of 1979, a year of adjustment which, unhappily, also became a year of crippling injuries. The Pats wound up with a 9-7 mark — highly respectable by the standards of a number of NFL teams, but not, Erhardt would agree, quite up to the Pats' potential.

Now all that is past, and the 1980 Patriots have been cast completely in the image of the new regime.

(continued next page)

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Characteristically, since he is not a man given to hyperbole, Erhardt has articulated some sensible expectations.

"We've already established an offensive system," he said during a break in preparations for the new season. "Now we'll be trying to establish a defensive system of the same level."

"The players know exactly what I expect of them," he said. "It's the discipline to do their jobs to the best of their abilities without letting the little things, or even some of the big things, bother them. Over the years, we've had all kinds of distractions, and we've let them bother us. I'd like a mature, methodical team capable of handling adversity. We haven't had that in previous years."

The adversity Erhardt mentioned has come in many forms, both psychic and physical: for every torn cartilage and pulled ligament, there was, during the late Seventies, a psychological trauma to break the team's concentration and shake its resolve . . . the Fairbanks matter, a player strike, an unpopular trade, demoralizing holdouts.

Spared the anguish of such morale-busters, the Pats should be as tough as any team in the league in 1980, because — as the media has been fond of saying for years — there isn't a team anywhere in the universe with more raw talent.

Erhardt agreed that the Pats are a talented crew.

"We've played the best and won," he observed. "Sure, we have good talent, and have for several years now. But when you say we have the *best* talent, you're ignoring a lot of fine teams like Pittsburgh, Miami, San Diego, and Houston, for example. I'll say this, though . . . when we're healthy, we can compete with anyone."

Which brings to mind 1979, a season riddled with lingering injuries.

"We didn't lose people for just a game or two," Erhardt recalled, "but rather for 4 or 5 games. People like Horace Ivory, Sam Cunningham, Andy Johnson, Richard Bishop, and Dwight Wheeler."

But that was last year. Given a season relatively free of damage, psychological or physical, what could Patriots' fans expect in 1980?

"For several years," Erhardt reflected, "we had what people termed a predictable offense. Last year, we were much less predictable. This year, I'd like to achieve a happy medium — a balance between the predictable and the wide open."

Certainly, the team possesses both the skills and experience to field one of the league's toughest attacks. From Quarterbacks Steve Grogan and Matt Cavanaugh to running backs Sam Cunningham, Johnson, Ivory, newcomer Chuck Foreman, Vagas Ferguson, and Don Calhoun to receivers like Stanley Morgan, Russ Francis, and Harold Jackson, New England has the tools to win any game on its schedule.

On defense, Erhardt shares one vow with all of his coaching brethren:

"We're going to have to stop those crucial third-down plays."

(continued on page 30)

JIM RINGO
offensive coordinator/ offensive line

The New Jersey native, an all-time great center for Green Bay in his playing days, began his Patriots coaching career in 1978 and was named offensive coordinator after Ron Erhardt became head coach in 1979. A 10-time Pro Bowl center, Ringo launched his coaching career in 1969 with Chicago and moved to Buffalo in 1972. He was named the Bills' head coach midway through the 1976 season.

RAYMOND BERRY
receivers

A Hall of Famer, the Texas native ranks as one of the game's all-time great receivers. For 13 years, he was the favorite target of Johnny Unitas at Baltimore, amassing totals of 631 receptions for 9275 yards and 68 touchdowns. Now in his third year with the Patriots, Raymond started his coaching career in 1968 with Dallas and has made stops at Arkansas, Detroit, and Cleveland.

GINO CAPPELETTI
special teams

With the exception of Billy Sullivan himself, no one has enjoyed a longer, more varied, or more productive association with the Patriots. Gino led the Patriots in scoring for 10 straight seasons (1960-69), then spent 7 years as color commentator for Pats football broadcasts before returning to the field as a coach.

THE ASSISTANTS

BILLY KINARD
defensive backs

The Mississippi native has enjoyed a long career in coaching ranks, most of it at the collegiate level. When his own pro playing days ended after stints with Cleveland, Green Bay, and Buffalo, Billy coached at Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, and Ole Miss. He entered the professional coaching ranks in 1974 with Green Bay, moved to Cleveland briefly, then returned to college ranks for a year with Gardner-Webb (N.C.) College before joining the Pats.

JOHN POLONCHEK
quarterbacks

John came to the Patriots in 1975 after a three-year stint as a receivers coach with Green Bay. A Michigan State alumnus, John was a defensive back and running back for the Spartans for four years (1946-49). He served as a graduate assistant at MSU before undergoing military service in the early 1950s. He later returned to MSU, then went on to coach the backs at Colorado for a couple of years. John left the coaching ranks during the early 1960s to enter business, returning in 1967 to a post at Oakland.

FRITZ SHURMUR
defensive coordinator/ defensive line

A Michigan native, Fritz coached at his alma mater, Albion, from 1954 to 1961 before moving to Wyoming, where he coached from 1962 to 1974, for the last five years as head coach. He then joined the Lions as defensive coordinator and line coach, leaving that post to join the Pats in 1978.

TOM YEWCIC
offensive backs

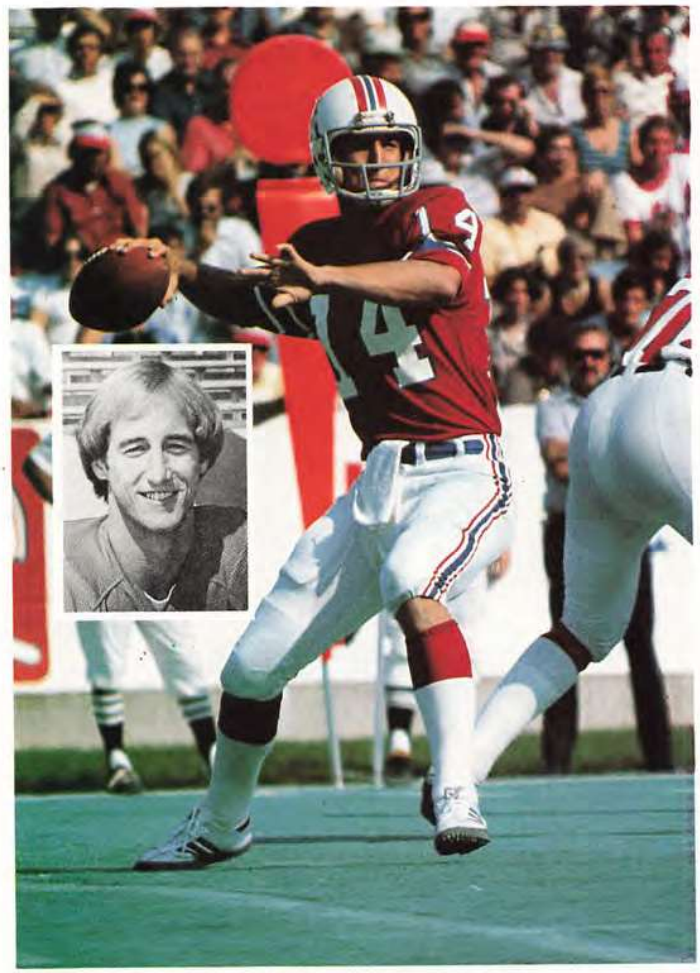
One of the all-time Patriots greats as a player, Tom has been coaching his old team, off and on, since 1967. The Michigan State grad quarterbacked the Spartans to a Rose Bowl win in 1954 over UCLA, and toiled for four years as a catcher in the Detroit Tigers organization before making a permanent commitment to football. He played briefly with the Toronto Argonauts before joining the Patriots as a kicker and quarterback in 1961. He coached the Patriot backs in 1967-68, left the organization for several years, and returned in 1974.

BILL PARCELLS
linebackers

A rookie in the NFL, Bill is no stranger to coaching, having compiled 15 years at the trade. The New Jersey native, a former All Missouri Conference linebacker at Wichita State, has coached at Hastings (Neb.) College, Wichita State, West Point, Vanderbilt, Florida State, Texas Tech, and most recently, the Air Force Academy, where he succeeded Ben Martin as head coach in 1977. He was employed briefly with the New York Giants before leaving the post for personal reasons.

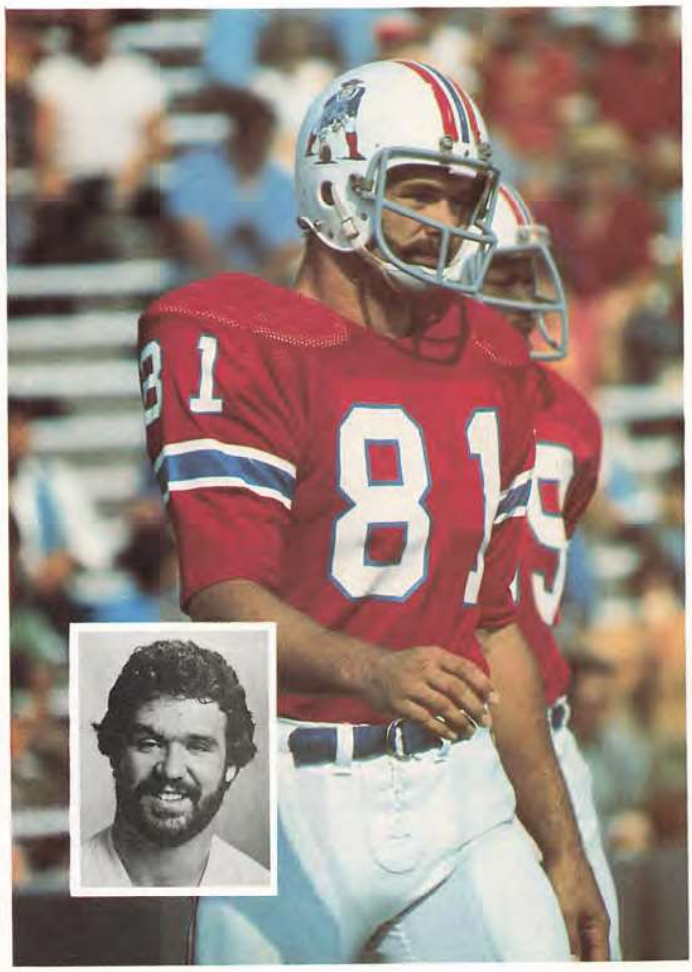
RICK BUFFINGTON
administrative assistant

The Fall River native joined the Patriots' scouting department in 1978 and became staff administrative aide a year later. A standout for Durfee HS in 1960-62, Rick played with several semipro trams before becoming head coach and general manager of the Kings, who performed in the Attleboros a few years back. Rick was a part time scout for the Jets before joining the Patriots.



STEVE GROGAN - Q Kansas State
6′ 4″-208 Born 7-24-53 San Antonio, TX

One of the best athletes and most exciting offensive performers in the NFL, Steve Grogan is a commanding figure at the helm of the Patriots' attack. As every opposing team and every NFL fan knows, Grogan is a two-dimensional offensive player whose running ability makes him one of the most feared offensive performers in pro football. And last season was his finest. He was tied with Cleveland's Brian Sipe for the most touchdown passes (28) and was the league's top rushing quarterback (to nobody's surprise) with 368 yards in 62 attempts for a 5.8 yard average. Under Steve's direction, the Patriots produced the best completion yardage average in the NFL (15.17) last year. Steve entered the 1980 season with a string of 67 straight starts, winning 40 and losing 27 (including two playoff games) during that skein. His 3,286 passing yards last year represents the second best seasonal performance in Patriots history. Only Babe Parillo, with 3,465 yards in 1964, chalked up more distance in one campaign. Adjudged the team's most valuable player by the 1776 QB Fan Club, Steve had a five touchdown game against the Jets and passed for more than 300 yards 4 times during the course of the year. Steve and his wife Robbi recently became the parents of their first child, Tyler. Raised in Ottawa, Kansas, the lanky plainsman spends two months before training camp each year helping his father-in-law with the wheat harvest.

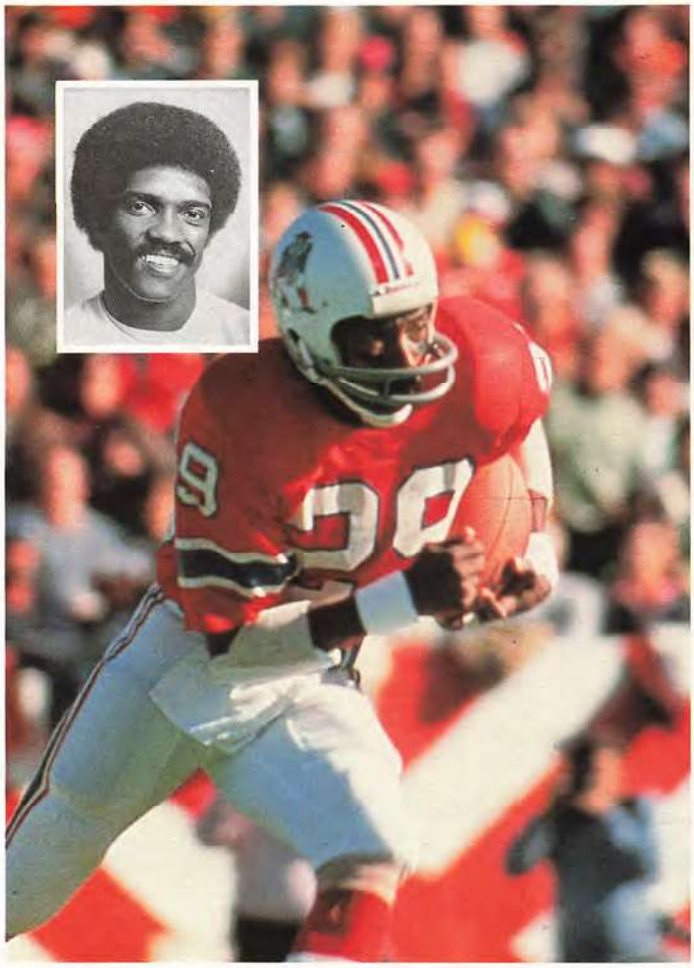


RUSS FRANCIS - TE Oregon
6′ 6″-242 Born 4-3-53 Seattle, WA

Entering his sixth year as a pro, Russ Francis has established himself as the game's premier tight end. A devastating blocker and fine receiver, Russ was selected for the Pro Bowl after the '76, '77, and '78 seasons, missing out last year because of an injury he received in a motorcycle mishap. Despite injuries which kept him out of four games, Russ chalked up a brilliant season in 1979, collecting 39 passes for 557 yards and 5 touchdowns. One of the most popular Patriots because of his appealing combination of talent and temperment, Russ intrigues the media because of his off-field activities as a flyer and all-around sportsman. He's also unusual in that he was a first draft choice in 1975 despite the fact that he didn't play at all in his senior year at Oregon. As a junior, he had earned all PAC-8 honors and was an honorable mention All-American. In his rookie year, Russ caught 35 passes for 636 yards and 4 touchdowns and was named to several all-rookie squads. He made Pro Bowl in 1976 after turning in a brilliant sophomore season which he climaxed with a standout performance against Oakland in the playoffs. The amiable star lives in Hawaii during the off season.

Steve Grogan

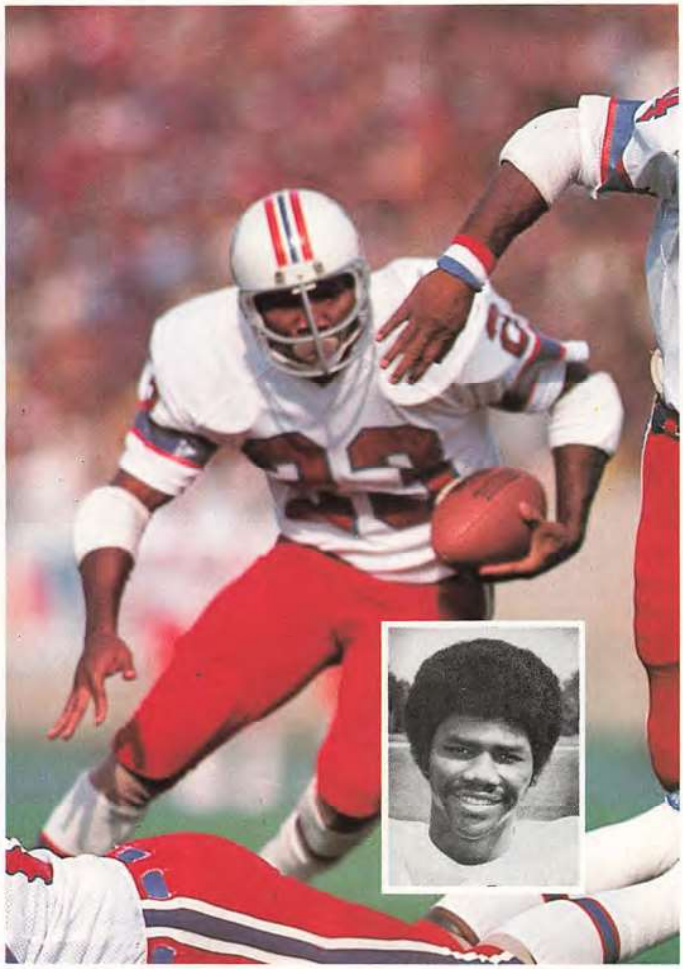
Russ Francis



HAROLD JACKSON - WR Jackson State
5′ 10″-175 Born 1-6-46 Hattiesburg, MS

Anyone who had any doubts about the wisdom of picking up veteran Harold Jackson has only to scan his achievements in his two years as a Patriot. The highly-respected wide receiver turned in a fine year in 1978, picking up 743 yards and 6 touchdowns on 37 pass receptions. And for an encore, he blitzed NFL secondaries for 1,013 reception yards last year, collecting 45 passes for a 22.5 yard average and 7 touchdowns. This performance left no doubt that the 34-year old speed merchant had lost none of the skills which had made him one of the most respected offensive performers in the league for the past decade. Last year's 1,000-yard season was Harold's third in the NFL. He logged the other two as a member of the Eagles, the team for which he performed between 1969 and 1972 before heading west to join the Rams. Harold started his Patriots career in fine style, hauling down 7 passes for 124 yards and a touchdown against Washington on opening day of 1978. Since then, he and teammate Stanley Morgan have given the team one of the NFL's best one-two scoring punches.

Harold Jackson



HORACE IVORY - RB Oklahoma
6′ -198 Born 8-8-54 Fort Worth, TX

A healthy Horace Ivory could be of immense value to the Patriots in 1980, as anyone who saw this talented man in 1978 will attest. A second-round draft choice in 1977, Horace saw limited action as a rookie, due to a thigh injury, but flourished in 1978 as an exciting climax runner and key contributor to the record-setting Patriots ground offense. In 1978, Horace rushed for 693 yards and 11 touchdowns, averaging 4.9 yards per carry. His 11 touchdowns placed him fifth in the NFL touchdown race in 1978. Last year, this talented runner was hampered by injuries, missing 4 games after being hurt in the season's opener against Pittsburgh. But when he returned, he showed flashes of his accustomed brilliance, and actually wound up as the team's second leading rusher. He also collected 23 passes for 216 yards and a couple of touchdowns. Horace is yet another player to come to the Patriots as a result of the Jim Plunkett trade. He was one of those draft picks acquired from the 49ers in the deal, which may have gone as far as anything else in the team's two-decade history to stock the New England entry with talent.

Horace Ivory

SHELBY JORDAN - OT Washington, MO
6′ 7″-260 Born 1-23-52 St. Louis, MO

After winning the starting right tackle spot for the Patriots in 1978, Shelby was on his way to a full and productive season last year when he was knocked out of action with a knee injury after 11 starts. After missing a couple of games, he played briefly against Miami on November 29, then returned to fulltime service for the final two games of the campaign. Shelby entered pro football ranks with the Houston Oilers in 1973, but had a stuttering start with the Oilers and was waived in 1974. He joined the Patriots as a free agent and was impressive in training camp, but was sidelined for the entire season with an injury. Shelby and Donzella are the parents of a year-old son, Shelby.

SAM ADAMS - OG Prairie View
6′ 3″-260 Born 9-20-48 Jasper, TX

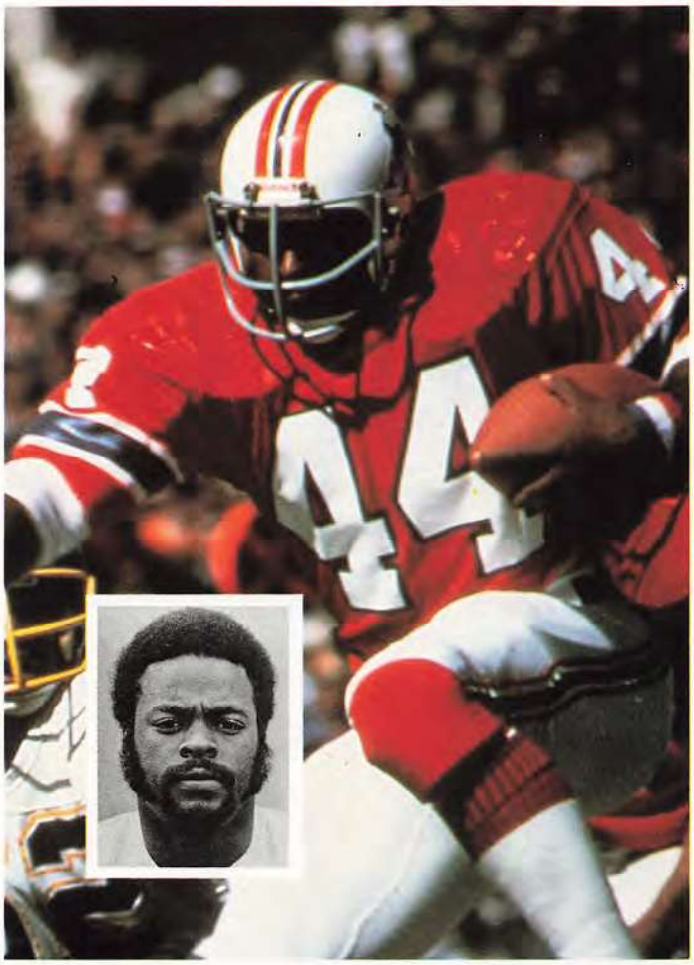
A Patriot for nine years, Sam is one of only four active members of the team to play more than 100 games in a Patriots' uniform. If there's a valid measure of Sam's effectiveness on the offensive line, it can be drawn from the team's overall performance while he's on the field. With Sam at right guard, the Pats were the second best rushing team in the NFL in 1976, the AFC's third best in 1977, and the league's all-time best in 1978, the year the offense hammered out 3,165 yards on the ground. Picked up from Dallas in 1971, Sam began his Patriots career as a member of the taxi squad, switching between tackle and guard for the next couple of years before settling in with John Hannah to form one half of one of the most intimidating guard tandems in the league. He and his wife Marilyn are the parents of Sam, 6.

BILL LENKAITIS - OC Penn State
6′ 4″-255 Born 6-30-46 Cleveland, OH

Not only is Doctor Bill a practicing dentist, but he's the elder statesman among Patriots players, having played more games for the team (125) than any other active performer. Added to the 29 games Bill played for San Diego early in his career, that brings his game total to 154 in the NFL. And Lenk is durable. He and John Hannah were the only two offensive linemen to play all 16 games in '79. Bill was a second-round draft choice by San Diego in 1968. He started at guard for the Chargers in 1970, but was cut prior to the '71 season. He was picked up immediately by the Patriots and saw duty at guard and center and on special teams. After being cut in 1973, Lenk returned early in the season to replace injured center Jon Morris. Since then, he's been a fixture at the position. Bill and his wife Donna are the parents of two daughters, Kristen and Lauren, and a son, Jamie.

JOHN HANNAH - OG Alabama
6′ 2″-265 Born 4-4-51 Canton, GA

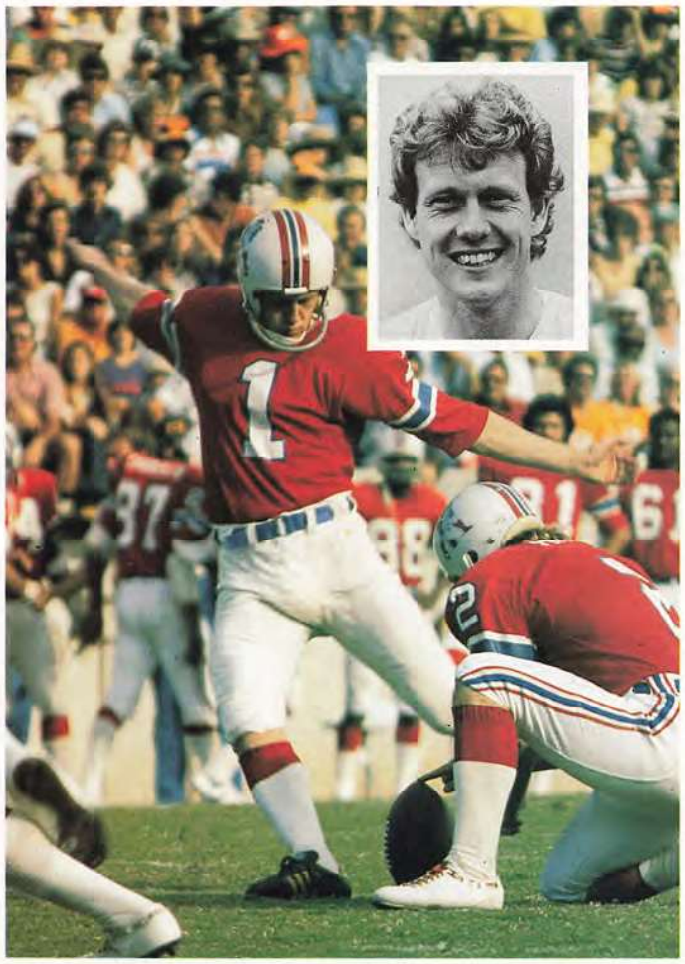
Considered nothing less than one of the all-time best, John played in all 16 Patriots games last year and won his usual host of honors. He made his third appearance in the past four years in the Pro Bowl and won the Budweiser Offensive Lineman of the Year for the third straight year. In fact, he's the only man ever to have won that award since it was introduced. Doggedly durable despite nagging injuries, ''Hawg'' had rolled up 43 straight games for the Patriots by the time 1979 came to an end. The big Alabaman was instrumental in the offensive performance of the Patriots in 1978, when the team set an NFL record with 3,165 yards rushing. Married to Page, he is the father of 1-year-old Seth.



DON CALHOUN - RB Kansas State
6′-212 Born 4-29-52 Muskogee, OK

Easily one of the most valuable backup men in the NFL, Don made his reputation by filling in for injured players. But he has been much more than a supernumerary since 1976, a year in which he carried the ball 129 times for 721 yards and a 5.6 average per carry. Since he joined the Patriots in 1975, the hard-running and shifty Oklahoman has rushed for 2,399 yards — a performance good enough to rank him fourth behind Jim Nance, Sam Cunningham, and Larry Garron among all-time Patriot rushers. The durable Calhoun is another great free-agent find for New England, having been picked up late in 1975 after being waived by the Buffalo Bills. In 1977, Don's best year as a pro, he carried the ball 198 times for 727 yards and added 152 more yards on 13 pass receptions. A year earlier, he had emerged from the obscurity of a backup role to replace Cunningham when Sam was injured and proceeded to hammer out four straight 100-yard-plus games, topped by a 177-yard effort against Denver. His 5.6 yards per rush was tops in the NFL that year. Don has racked up six 100-yard rushing games in his career, third among the Patriots behind Cunningham and Nance. Don and wife Donna are the parents of three daughters. Don, one of the strongest men on the squad, is a dedicated weightlifter.

Don Calhoun

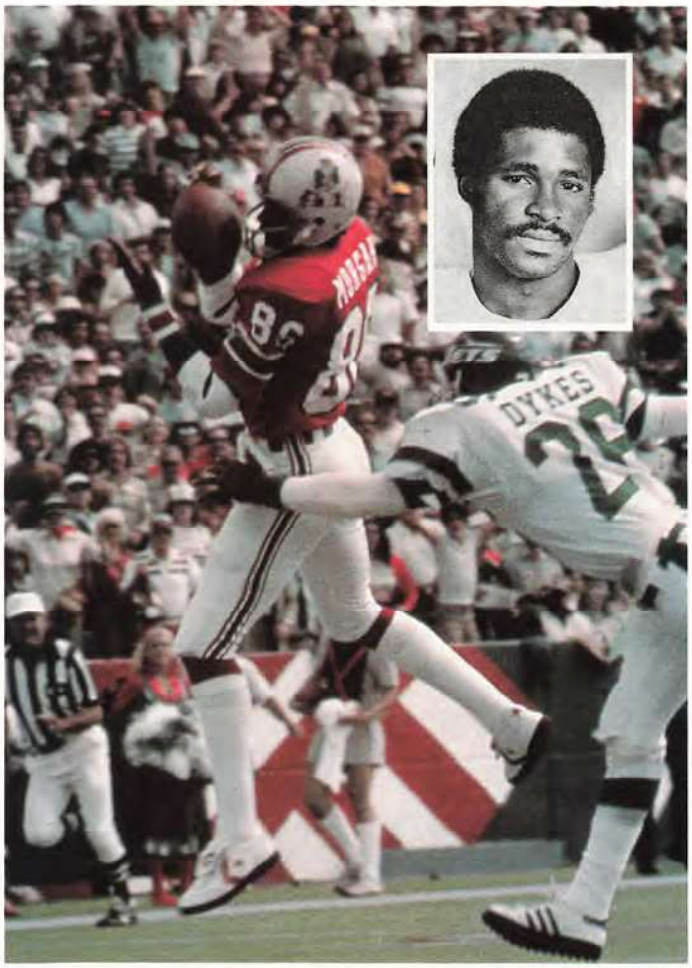


JOHN SMITH - PK
6′-185 Born 12-30-48 Southampton, England

In his seventh year in the NFL, John has emerged as the most dependable placekicker in the league. Coming back last year from a torn leg muscle which sidelined him for most of 1978, John wound up as the league's leading scorer with 115 points. That total, incidentally, was an all-time Patriots high, beating the 111 amassed by kicking coach (and longtime Patriots star) Gino Cappelletti. John has scored in 60 consecutive games, and has scored in all but one of his 75 games as a Patriot. John got his start in the NFL via an unusual route. Back in 1974, the native-born Briton was a visiting soccer camp instructor when he tried kicking a football and discovered a new and, as it developed, profitable talent. He signed with the Patriots, was traded to Pittsburgh, was later waived, and returned to the Patriots via the New England Colonials in the ACFL. John and his wife Vivienne are the parents of two daughters, Felicity and Nicola. In the off season, he's active in various organizations and charities.

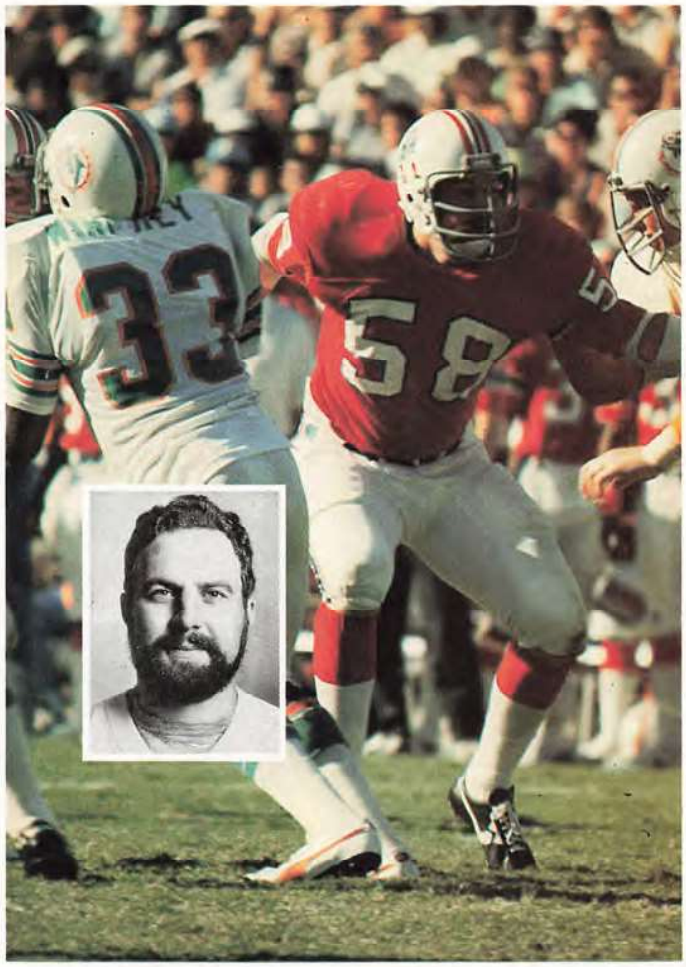
John M Smith

John Hannah Shelby J Adams Bill Lenkaitis S. Adams



STANLEY MORGAN - WR Tennessee
5′ 11″-180 Born 2-17-55

In his three years as a pro, the fleet wide receiver has emerged as one of pro football's most exciting players. After starting all 46 games of his career with the Patriots, Stanley was chosen for the 1979 Pro Bowl and is regarded as one of the game's most dangerous deep pass threats. He and Harold Jackson gave the Patriots one of the league's most effective receiving tandems last year, each rolling up more than 1,000 reception yards. While hauling down 44 passes, the Tennessee alumnus led the league in touchdown receptions with 12 and in yards per reception with 22.8. By no means one-dimensional, Stanley also excels as a punt returner, presently ranking as the third best in Patriots' history in that department with 78 for 840 yards and a 10.7 yard average. His 22.8 yards per reception average, incidentally, is the highest in the team's history, and his 13 touchdowns in 1979 (one came on an 80-yard punt return against Baltimore) tied Steve Grogan's mark for the most touchdowns in a single season. Stanley and his wife Rholedia are the parents of 4-year-old Sanitra Nicole. During the off season, Stanley worked at the Industrial National Bank in Providence, handling government and municipal bond business.



PETE BROCK - C/OG Colorado
6′ 5″-260 Born 7-14-54 Portland, OR

The versatile Pete won the 1776 Fan Club's Unsung Hero Award for 1979 by putting his finger in the dike throughout an injury-riddled year for the Patriots' offensive line. After performing mainly as backup center and guard through the first 10 games, Pete started the last six games at tackle when Dwight Wheeler was sidelined with an injury. He also played wingback and tight end (on the three tight-end offense), and snapped for field goals, points after, and punts. As a rookie, Pete caught a touchdown pass against the Jets and was immediately dubbed ''deep threat'' by his teammates. The Colorado alumnus was one of three first-round Patriot draft picks in 1976. He and Tim Fox were taken with the picks acquired from San Francisco in the Jim Plunkett trade. Married, Pete and wife Karen are the parents of Stephanie (4) and two-year-old John. Pete has been involved in research and development work with Nike Shoes and is now involved in promotional work with the same company. His brother Will played for Detroit and Kansas City, and younger brother Stan, an all-American lineman at Colorado, was drafted this year by New Orleans.

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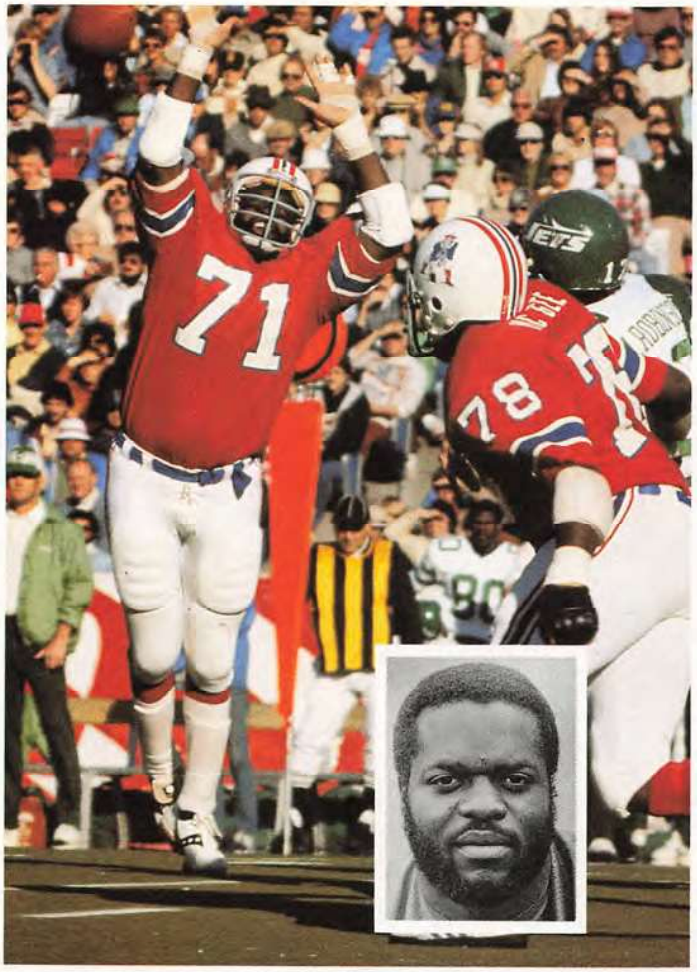
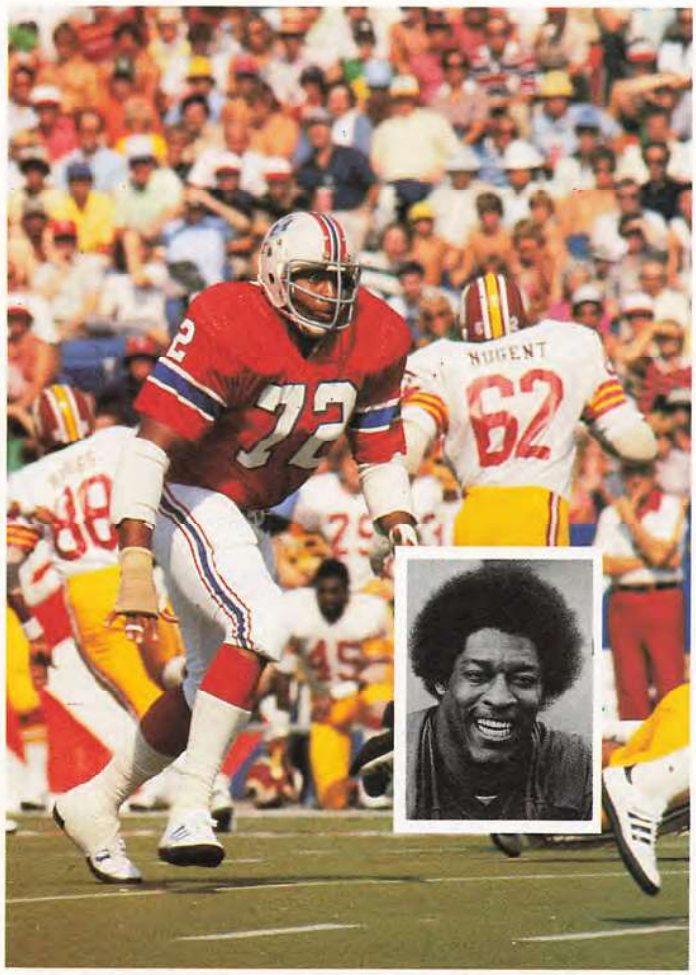
John Hannah makes a formidable impression as he raises havoc with defensive teams around the NFL. Here's an example.



RAY HAMILTON - NT Oklahoma
6′ 1″-245 Born 1-20-51 Omaha, NEB

Having started in 102 straight games for the Patriots, the Sugar Bear leaves no doubt about his value to the club. Joining the squad in 1973 as a 14th round draft pick, Ray made the team as a starting defensive end and played in all 14 games that year. In 1974, the Patriots switched to the 3-4 defense, and Ray became nose tackle, where he has started in 86 straight games. Not only has Sugar Bear displayed remarkable endurance, but he has been top tackler on the defensive line for the past three years. His 68½ tackles were third best on the squad. He also contributed 11 quarterback pressures, 6 sacks, and one pass deflection. Against Miami on November 29, Ray chipped in with 7 tackles, one sack, and one QB pressure. In 1978, he was the team's second leading tackler with 85½ stops and contributed 5 sacks and 3 fumble recoveries. Off the field, the big defensive standout projects another dimension: that of an intelligent and hard-working businessman and public servant. Sugar Bear holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma and a master's degree in public administration from Suffolk University, and was a Dean's List student at both schools. He helped establish and operates a youth football camp with Tony McGee and Leon Gray, and won the Frito-Lay Community Service Award in 1979. As if that weren't enough, Ray, married and the father of two sons, Kadar and Damon, is an accredited pro tennis official.



MEL LUNSFORD - DE Central State
6′ 3″-260 Born 6-13-50

Mel enjoyed perhaps his finest season in 1979, chalking up 57 tackles — fifth best on the team — and tying Tony McGee for the most quarterback pressures with 22. Those efforts earned him the Jim Lee Hunt Award as the team's most valuable lineman. Mel also started all 16 games for the second straight year, sharing left defensive end duties with McGee. Besides his tackles and pressures, Mel logged seven quarterback sacks. Drafted in 1972 by Oakland, Mel made brief stops at Atlanta and Washington before joining the Patriots in 1973. Mel and his wife Diane live in Cincinnati during the off season. Mel enjoys basketball.

The Patriots' defense pays a call on the Detroit backfield

Cheryl Ann Carey

Pam Jenks

Lisa Matta

Jeanne Ball

New England 'Spirits' Are Winners, Too

They'll make sure there's never a dull moment this fall at Schaefer Stadium.

By the time they finally suit up for the opening game, the guys and gals of professional football have put in weeks at hard labor, getting their acts together for the season ahead.

For the guys — the players — the preparations amount to an endless succession of two-a-days under a relentless summer sun.

For the gals — the cheerleaders — there's no head-knocking or wind sprints. But the task of organizing a first-rate program is just as demanding, in its own way, no matter how smooth and effortless the halftime show might finally look on a cool October afternoon.

Whether they're called the Spirits of New England or the Dallas Cowgirls or, of all things, the Embraceable Ewes (the L.A. Rams, of course), the girls work hard to put on the kind of show that has become a winsome tradition around the NFL.

For the Spirits of New England, showtime this year is better than ever. After training all summer at Boston University's Walter Brown Arena with choreographer Danny Sloan and gymnastic instructor Bob Ferraro, the girls and their male partners came bouncing into the 1980 season with a sparkling new program that can best be described as a sight for sore eyes. Full of dance steps, handsprings, lifts, and pyramids, the program is designed to sustain a high level of spectator excitement and interest even during the inevitable vacuums (halftime, time outs) which occur during every game.

Their routines should establish beyond debate that the girls are true entertainers, and not just an assembly line of beautiful faces and figures. In fact, those routines are of a quality you'd be more likely to see on a soundstage than a gridiron. And that's no accident. Danny Sloan, the director of his own dance company in Boston, admits that he has been strongly influenced by Hollywood musicals, and put together his modern jazz routines for the Spirits with some of the old Busby Berkley extravaganzas in mind.

"I was apprehensive at first," admits Danny, who had never before worked with cheerleaders, "but I found that if you can put together a combination of intricate steps and interesting patterns, you can blow people's minds."

For Jeanne Ball, an elementary school teacher from South Portland, Maine, Danny's requirements were not overwhelming. As a professional cheerleading instructor, she knew what to expect.

"It's a challenge I enjoy," she said during a pause in one of those sweltering summer workouts.

Nor was it too much for Pam Jenks, a Dorchester girl, B.U. student, and newcomer to the squad.

"I was familiar with Danny," she said. "I had seen his company work, and I knew his routines weren't simple."

Then there are the gymnastic exercises prepared by Bob Ferraro, who, with his wife Nancy, operates a chain of schools in Massachusetts under the title of Gymnastic Academy of Boston. This portion of the Spirits' program was considered important enough to merit separate tryouts, which attracted 173 candidates for just 10 positions.

The gymnasts range in age and experience from Denise Walsh, 24, of North Chelmsford, who has performed around the U.S. and in Europe, to 13-year-old Nancy Doherty of Needham. In addition, the Spirits are the only cheering squad in the NFL which includes men. (The Patriots made that breakthrough back in 1978.)

Gail Callahan, the coordinator, says she's "very comfortable" about sending the squad out to represent the Patriots, whether it's at Schaefer Stadium or on one of the many charity assignments the Spirits fulfill during the year.

With professionalism the watchword for the new Spirits, the squad this year retained its own advisors in the glamour department. Command Performance Salons was selected to provide hair care for the girls, and Colose Cosmetics, an international firm headed by a Boston native, Carl Hudson, is another of the official beauty consultants. The girls' new uniforms, incidentally, were created by noted designer Alfred Fiandaca of Boston.

(continued on page 30)

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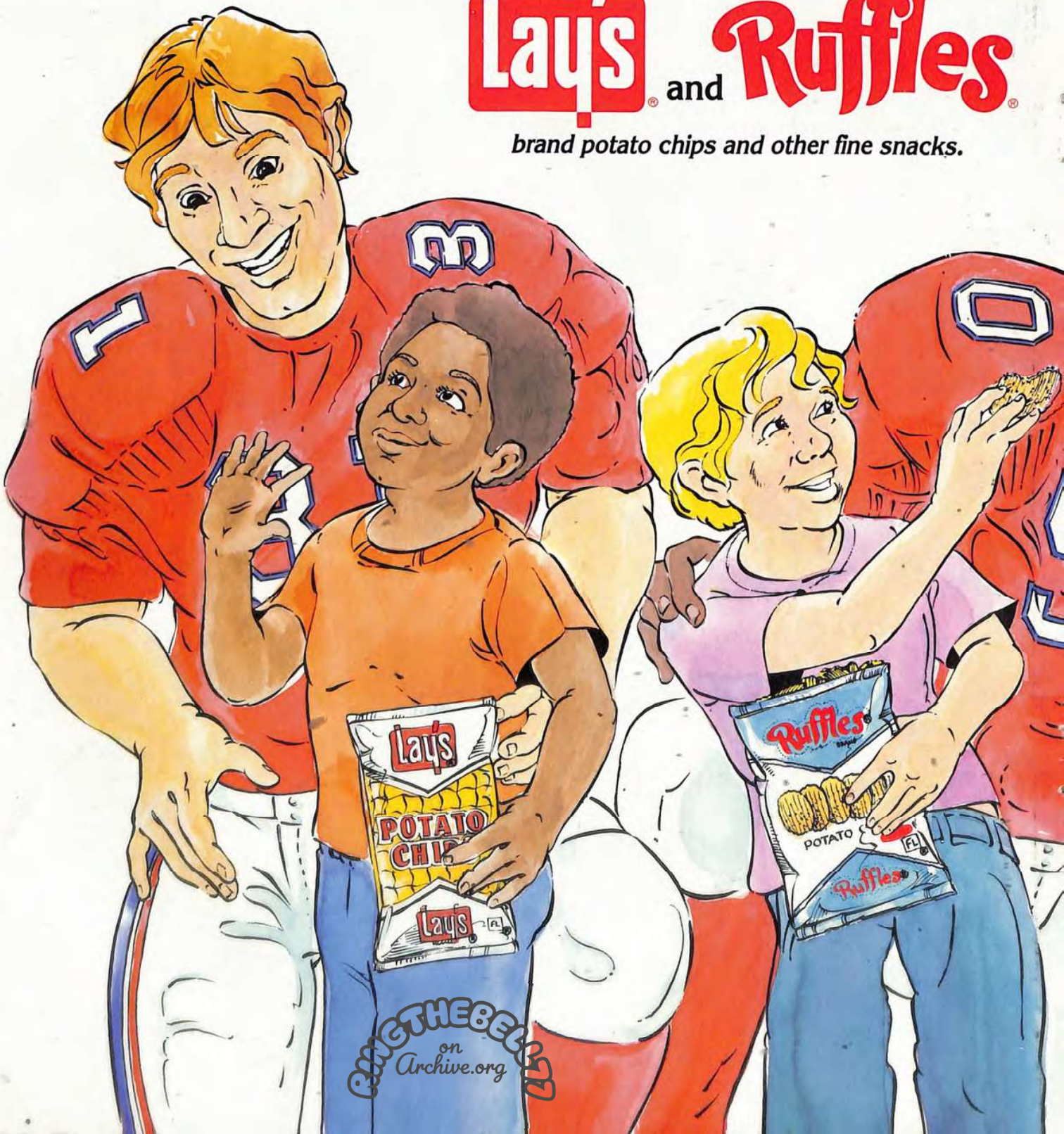

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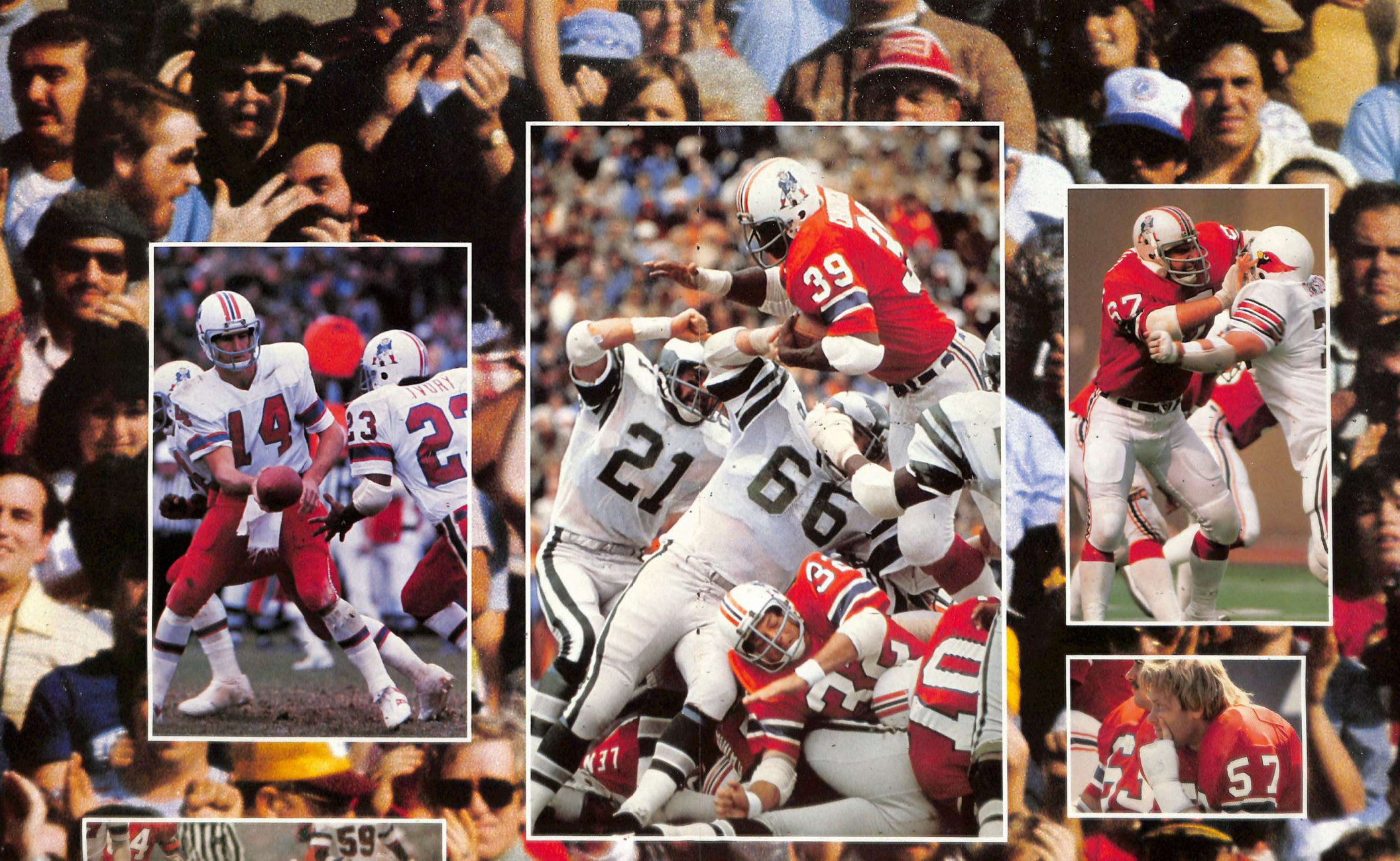
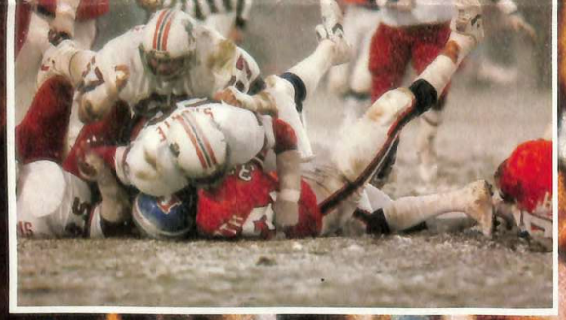
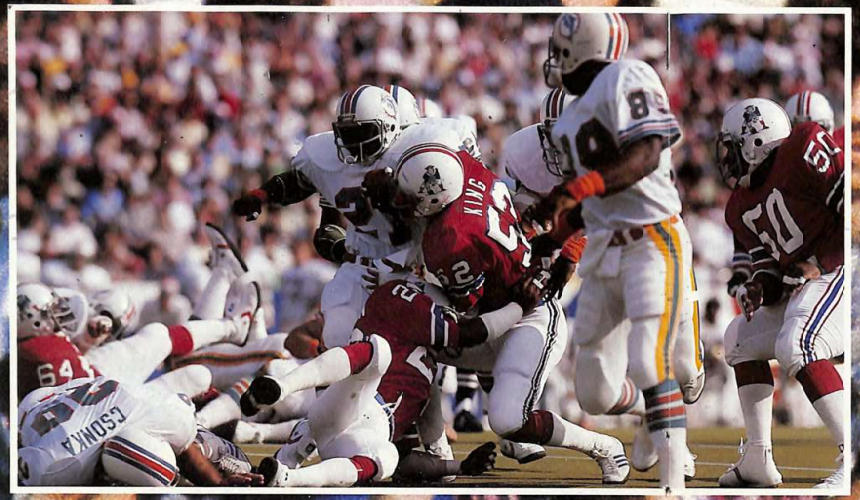




1980 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



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Halfpack Plan. For those people who can't make all the games, the Halfpack Plan is just right. It includes guaranteed seats to five home games (1 preseason, 4 regular season). And Halfpack ticket holders get priority seating over all but Fullpack ticket holders. Not to mention guaranteed tickets for all Patriots home playoff games.

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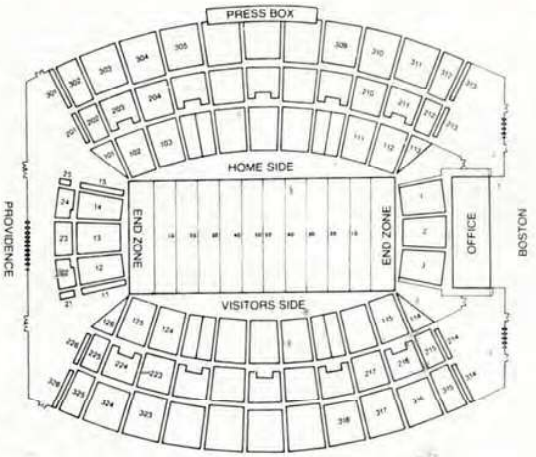

best employees, or best relatives together for a full day of fun and excitement. We'll put a package together for you that will include food and refreshments before and after the game, and parking in our reserved bus parking lot. As a special plus, we'll acknowledge your group or organization in "PRO", the official magazine of the NFL. We can also provide information about how you can reserve function room facilities at the New England Harness Raceway. There you can have breakfast or lunch, watch television, and just have an altogether good time. For group ticket information, call (617) 262-1776.

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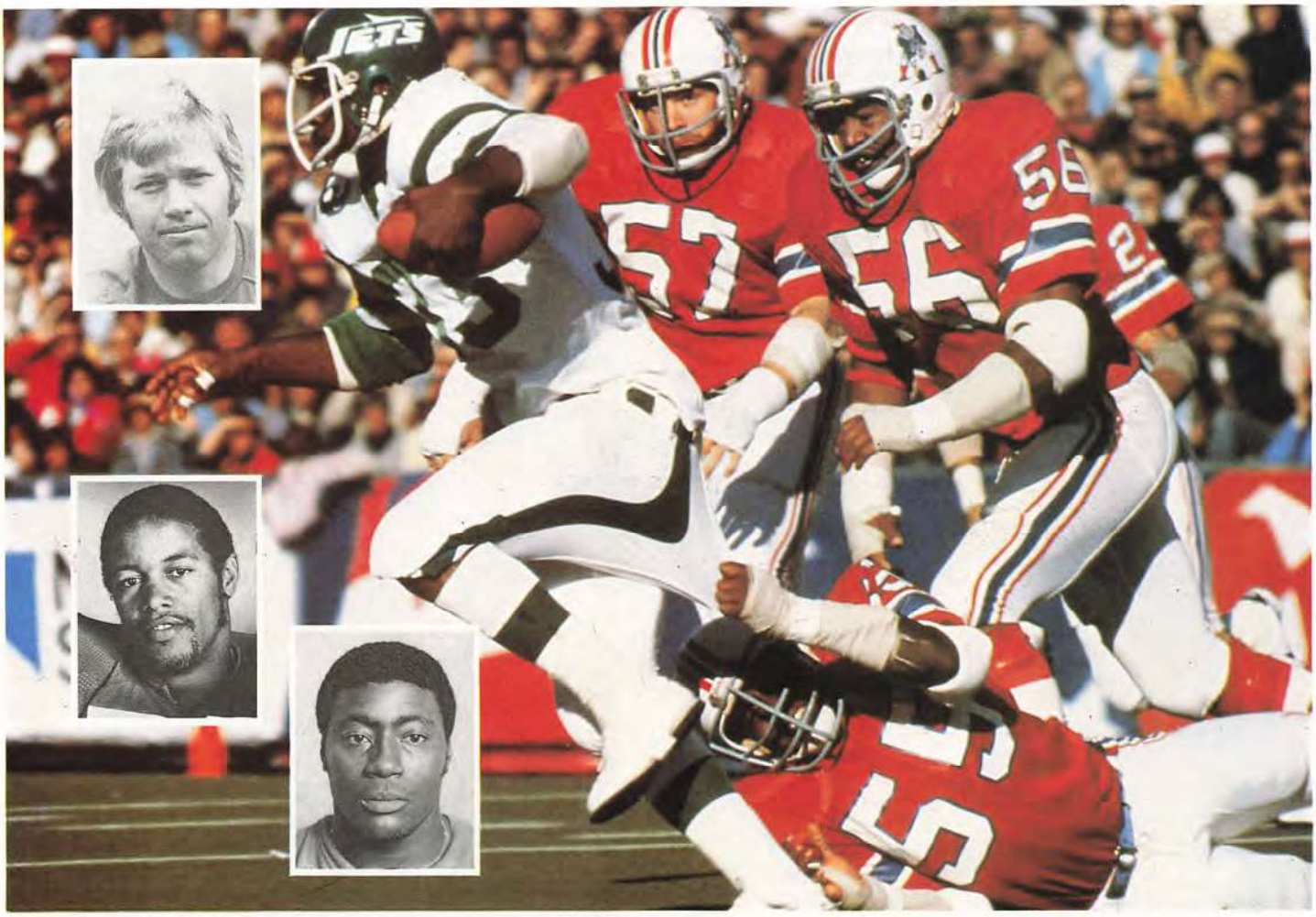


STEVE NELSON - LB North Dakota State
6′ 2″-230 Born 4-26-51

The anchor of the Patriots' defense, Steve led the team in tackles for the second straight year with 134 stops, nearly doubling the excellent performance of runnerup Tim Fox (70). Described by Defensive Coordinator Fritz Shurmur as ''an outstanding competitor with every characteristic of a top middle linebacker,'' Steve is widely regarded as one of the NFL's best. One of the highlights of Steve's 6-year pro career occurred last September 23 when he intercepted a Dan Fouts pass on the goalline with 1:30 remaining to assure a 27-21 Patriots win over San Diego. After making 33 tackles in his first 4 games, Nellie suffered a concussion at at Green Bay which sidelined him for two weeks. When he returned, he played better than ever, averaging 10 tackles per game for the final 10 contests of the season. Steve started every game in 1975 and led the team with an incredible 142 tackles. He was named the team's MVP that one, one of a number of honors he has accrued during a fine career. Steve and his wife Maria are the parents of two daughters, Cam (4) and Casey (2). Steve instructs Nautilus and contributes time to the Wrentham State School.

Steve Nelson

ROD SHOATE - OLB Oklahoma
6′ 1″-215 Born 4-26-53

A four-year veteran, Rod had a fine year in 1979, ''as fine a year as anybody on the squad,'' according to Coach Ron Erhardt. Rod started 14 of 16 games in 1979 and contributed 47 tackles, 4 sacks, and 4 quarterback pressures, as well as a pass interception. Exceptionally quick, Rod had his best day last season against Baltimore, contributing 5 tackles and a pass deflection to the team's 50-21 runaway over the Colts. Rod played in all 16 regular season games in 1978, amassing 48 tackles, 13 QB pressures, and 5 sacks. The 44th player selected in the 1975 college draft, Rod captained the Patriots' special teams until he broke his leg against the Bengals and missed most of his rookie season. He also was sidelined for the entire '76 season. Married (Deborah), Rod enjoys community activities and worked on the 1980 census.

Rod Shoate

RAY COSTICT - OLB Mississippi State
6′ -218 Born 3-19-55

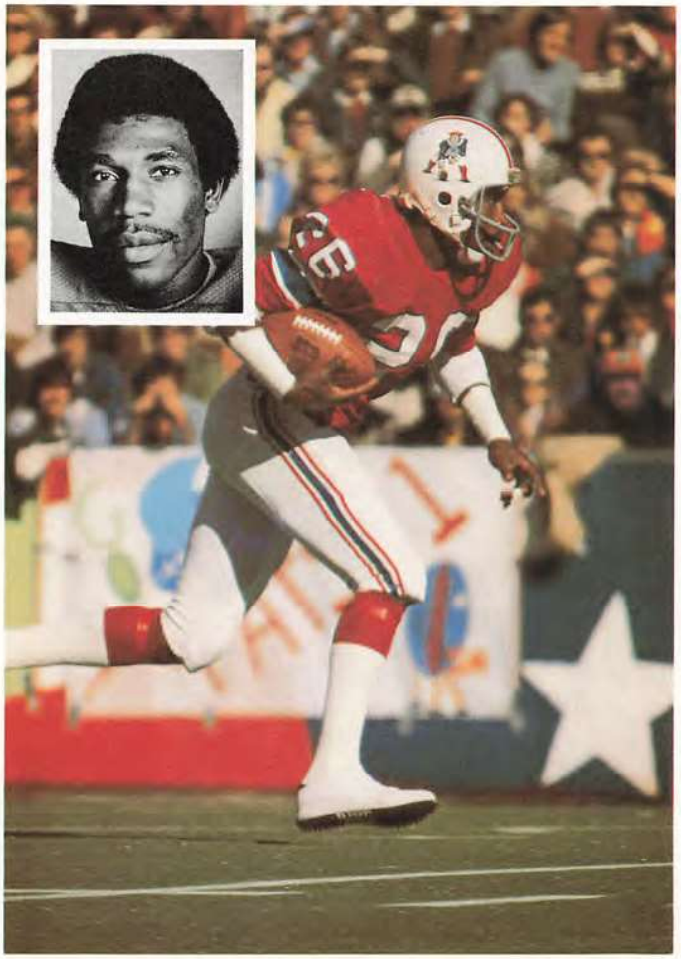
A reliable performer on the special teams during his three-year career with the Patriots, Ray piled up 50 tackles last year while backing up Rod Shoate and playing in special passing situations. He started one game in '79 and had a pass interception against the Jets. The ideal backup man, Ray filled in for Steve Nelson at inside linebacker when Steve was sidelined for four games in 1978, a year in which Ray also chalked up 50 tackles. Single, Ray involves himself in youth work and enjoys swimming and basketball.

Ray C. Costict

SAM HUNT - LB Stephan F. Austin
6′ 1″-270 Born 8-6-51 Longview, TX

An incredible athlete, Sam moves with exceptional speed for a man his size. The veteran linebacker, a Patriots fixture since 1974, accounted for 44½ tackles last year and recovered one fumble while playing mostly in run situations. He racked up 60 tackles during the 1978 campaign, and collected 56 in 1977, when the Patriots were tops defensively against the rush in the AFC. But the highlight of Sam's career probably occurred on December 12, 1976, when he picked off a pass against Tampa Bay and returned it 68 yards for a touchdown. Sam's best year was 1975, when he made 99 stops. Sam earned all-rookie honors in 1974, when he was named rookie of the year by the Patriots 1776 Fan Club. Sam and teammate Steve Nelson have formed a rugged linebacking tandem since both joined the club in '74.

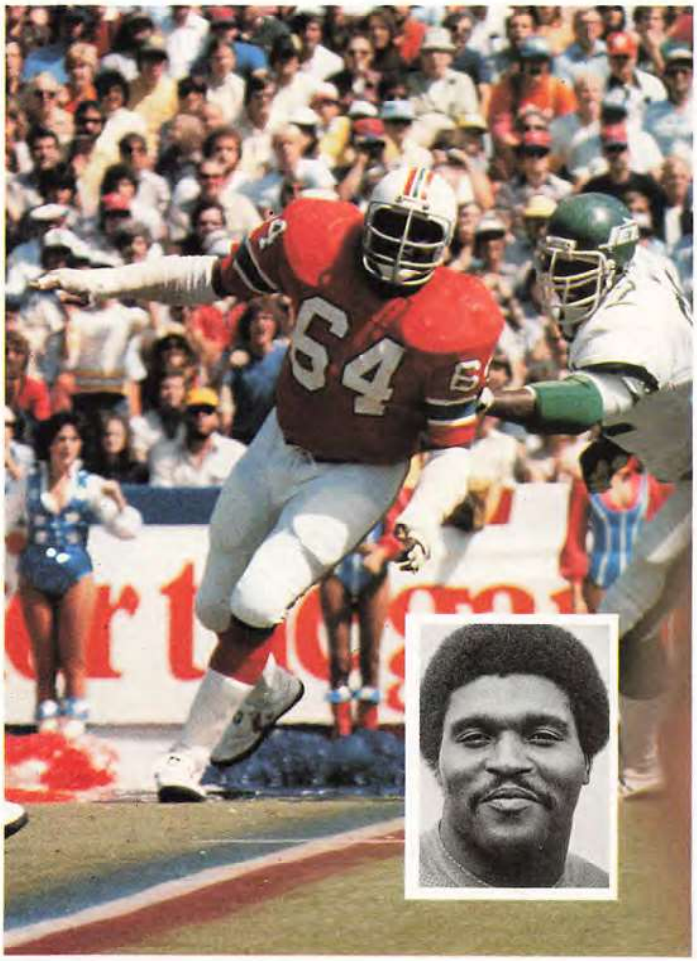
Sam Hunt



RAYMOND CLAYBORN - CB Texas
6′ 1″-190 Born 1-2-55

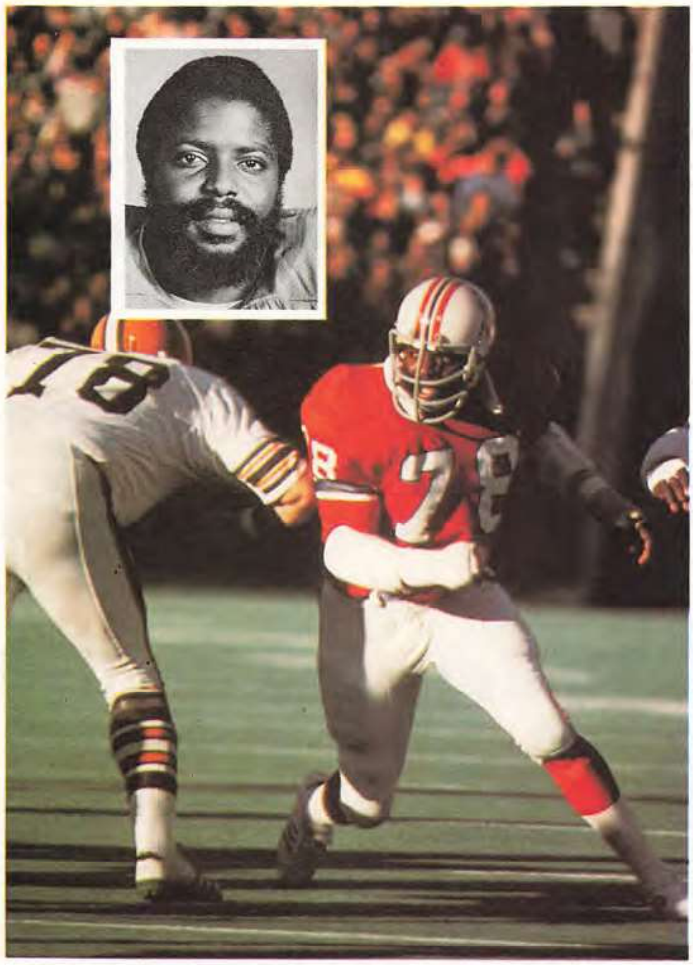
Already one of the premier cornerbacks in the NFL, Ray Clayborn may not yet have reached his peak, according to veteran observers. At 25 and entering his fourth year, Ray is ready to fine-tune the skills which his coaches think should have earned him All-Pro consideration last year. Ray started all 16 games in '79, led the team in interceptions with 5, and figured in 15 of the 45 passes blocked by Patriot defenders during the season. He also finished fourth on the squad in tackles with 58½. Until Allan Clark took over the role, Ray was one of the league's most dangerous and consistent kickoff returners, burning Baltimore with a 101-yard scoring runball in 1978. In 1977, when he led the league as a returner, he hustled one back for 100 yards against the Jets and another for 93 against Baltimore. Ray is another of the Patriots signed as a result of the Jim Plunkett trade. He was the 16th player selected in the 1977 draft, having been picked with a choice acquired from San Francisco in the Plunkett swap. Incidentally, Boston College fans had a preview of Ray's skills back in 1974 when, as a star for Texas, he returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown against the Eagles. Ray, who was Earl Campbell's roommate in college, returned to the Texas campus during the off season to complete his degree requirements.

Raymond Clayborn



RICHARD BISHOP - NT/DE Louisville
6′ 1″-260 Born 3-23-50 Cleveland, OH

The stocky Bishop is one of the prize Patriots' free-agent finds of recent years, having joined the club in 1976 just after having been cut by the Cincinnati Bengals. Starting against Baltimore on opening day, he was first cut, then signed again five days later and played in all of the team's games that year. Despite missing two games with a knee injury, Bishop played brilliantly last season, contributing 54 tackles 8½ sacks (second best on the team behind Tony McGee), and 13 QB pressures. Richard became a starter in 1978 when Julius Adams went on the injured reserve list. He got off to a great start, performing well against Oakland's All-Pro tackle Art Shell, and eventually won the Jim Lee Hunt Memorial Award as the team's outstanding lineman and the 1776 Fan Club's Unsung Hero Award for that year. In that memorable year, Richard led in QB pressures with 27, and was second in sacks with seven and third in tackles with 75. Before becoming a solid performer for the Patriots, Richard had a whirl at Canadian football as a member of the Hamilton Tiger Cats (1974) and the Ottawa Rough Riders (1975). Married (Barbara), Richard is active with the Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, and Boys Club in the New England area and has served on the President's Task Force on Youth Employment.



TONY McGEE - DE Bishop, TX
6′ 4″-250 Born 1-18-49

Big Tony isn't called "Mack the Sack" for nothing, as the NFL's quarterbacking fraternity will testify. Since coming to the Patriots from the Bears in 1974, Tony has spent considerable time in enemy backfields. In 1979, for the fifth straight year, he led the team in sacks and has now accumulated 78½ during the course of his career. As durable as he is strong, Tony has missed only one game since he joined the Patriots, and just two since he turned professional in 1971. Last year, he chalked up 35 tackles and tied Mel Lunsford for the most quarterback pressures (22). His best game was the first, against Pittsburgh on September 3, when he came up with 5 tackles, 1½ sacks, and one quarterback pressure. Tony's standout play in 1977 earned him the Jim Lee Hunt Memorial Award from the Patriots coaching staff for outstanding line play. Tony and his wife Novenna are the parents of two sons, David and Solomon, and a daughter, Shayla. Tony is active on the speaking circuit and with various charities, and was the 1980 winner of the Frito Lay Community Service Award. During the off season, he worked in the bond management program at the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company and pursued graduate studies in recreation administration.

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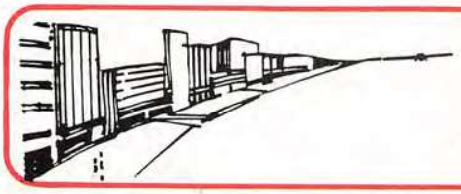

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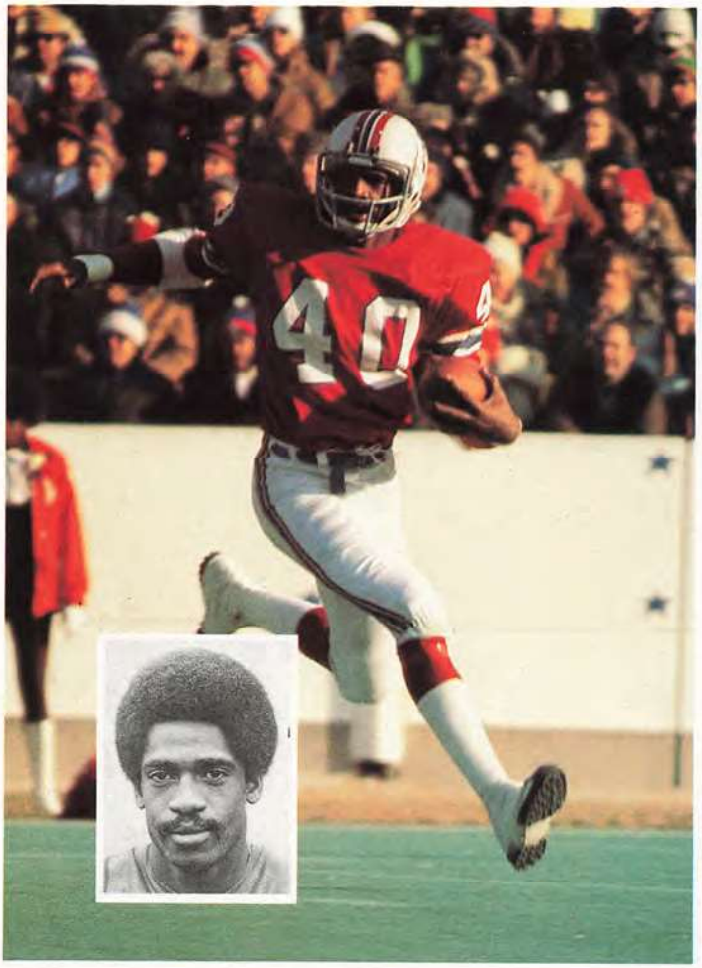
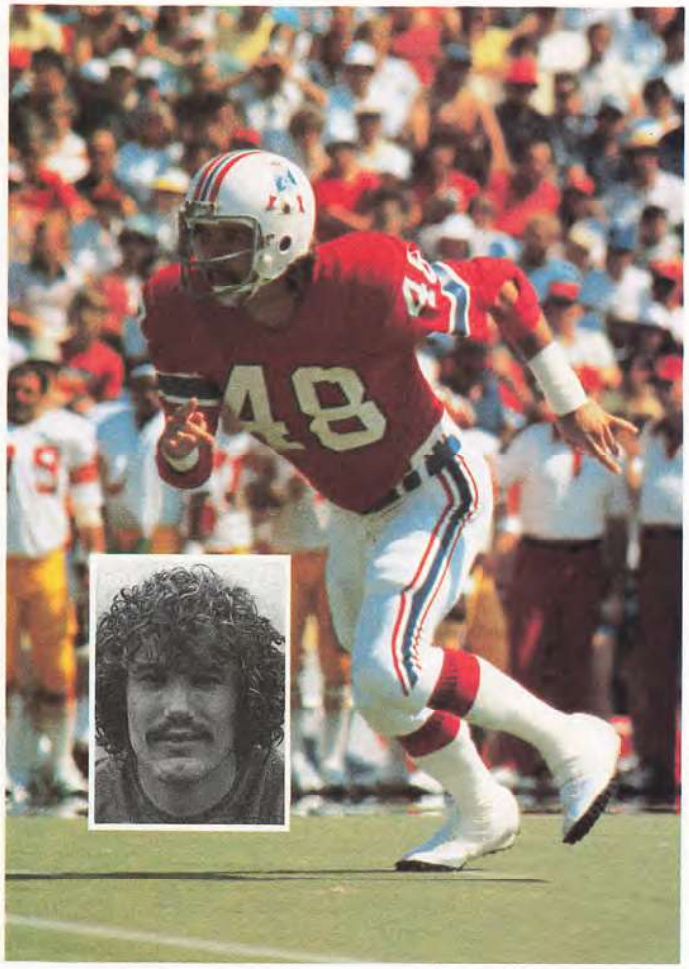


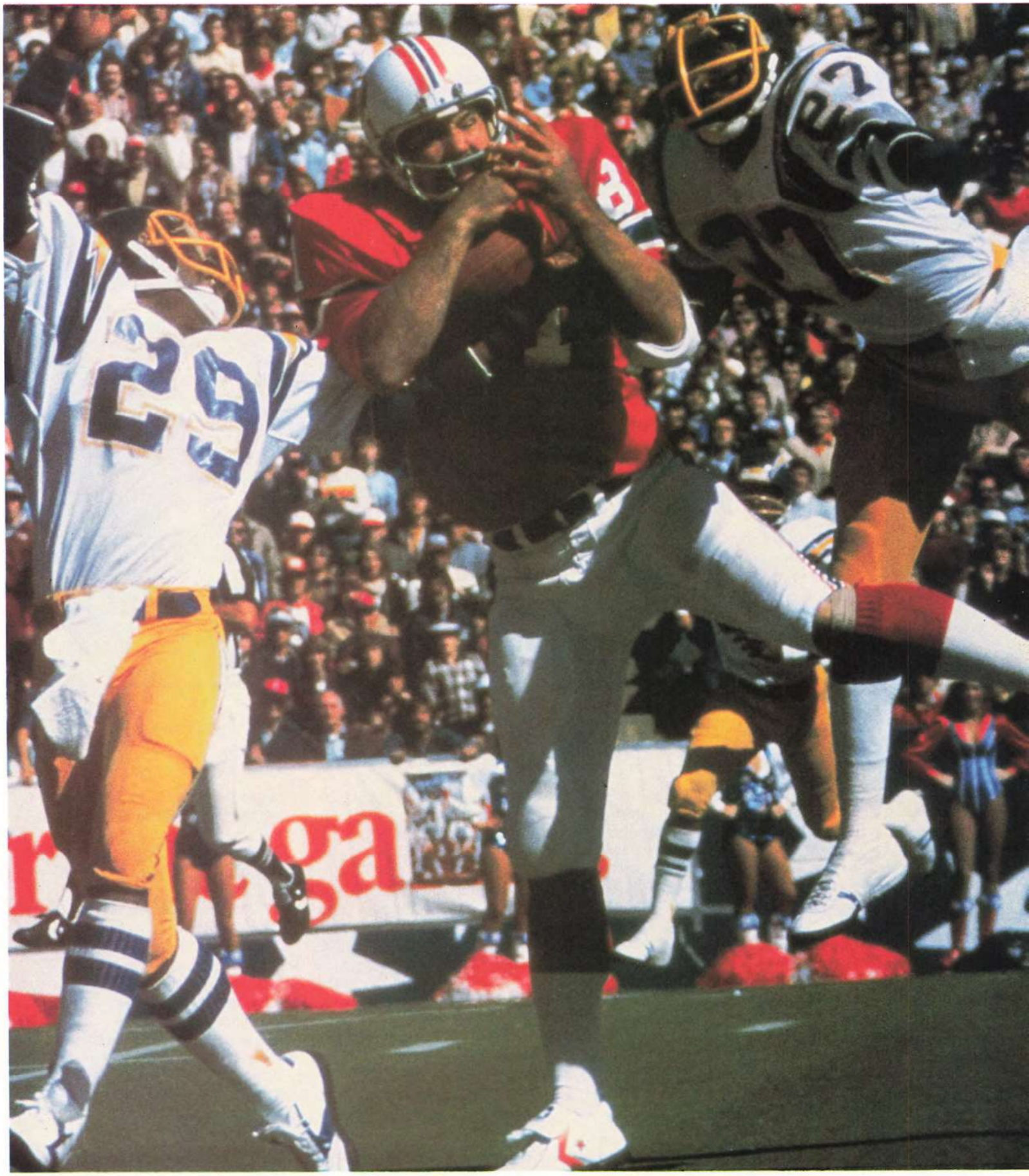
MIKE HAYNES - CB Arizona State
6′ 2″-195 Born 7-1-53 Dennison, TX

One of the game's top cornerbacks made his fourth straight Pro Bowl appearance last year at the end of another banner campaign. A first-round draft choice in 1976, Haynes quickly established himself as a brilliantly intuitive defender and explosive punt returner. In that incredible rookie season, Mike won Pro Bowl honors, picked up the Bert Bell Award, and wrote 7 new club records as a punt returner. In fact, as a rookie, he topped the AFC and was second in the NFL in punt returns, taking 45 back for 608 yards and two touchdowns. He became the first Patriot ever to return a punt for a touchdown when he performed the feat against Buffalo November 7, 1976. He repeated three weeks later with a 62-yarder against Denver. In addition to his punt returns and interceptions, Mike is a fine tackler, relying on his speed and intelligence to cover the league's best receivers as effectively as anyone in the game. Married to Julie, Mike is the father of an infant son, Aaron. Raised in Los Angeles, he returned to school during the off season to work toward the completion of his degree requirements.

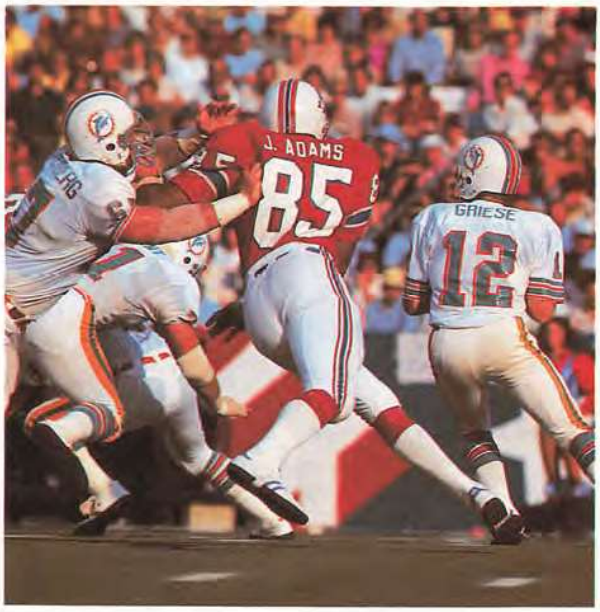


TIM FOX - FS Ohio State
6′-201 Born 11-1-53 Canton, OH

One of the most intense and intelligent defensive backs in the pro game, Tim was the Patriots' second leading tackler in 1979 with 70½ stops. The Ohio State All-American joined New England in 1976 as another of the club's pickups as a result of the Jim Plunkett trade to San Francisco. Tim entered the 1980 campaign with 59 consecutive starts behind him since he missed the season's opener as a rookie with a hip injury. The past year was his third straight as the best tackler in the Patriots' secondary. He racked up 52 tackles and 27 assists as a rookie, added 54 tackles in '77 and 68 in '78. Since joining the team, he has also racked up 10 pass interceptions and 6 fumble recoveries. In college, Tim led the Buckeyes in punt returns as a senior, ranking 12th nationally, one place behind teammate Mike Haynes. Married, Tim and wife Debbie are the parents of two daughters, Landin and Haley. Tim enjoys skiing and was the organizer of the Patriots basketball team. When he retires, something the Patriots don't like to think about, Tim would like to pursue a career in law or real estate.



Russ Francis (81) demonstrates why he's the best at what he does.

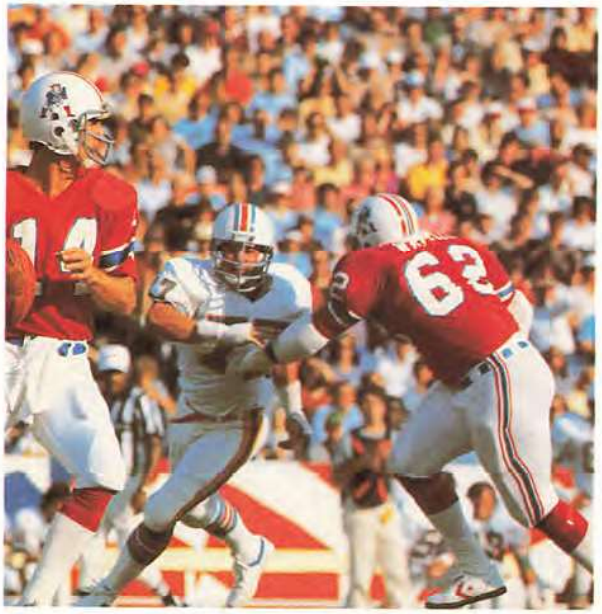


JULIUS ADAMS - DE Texas Southern
6′ 4″-263 Born 4-26-48 Macon, GA

A longtime mainstay of the Patriots' defensive line, ''The Jewel'' returned to the wars last season after missing virtually all of the 1978 campaign with a shoulder injury. Julius made his presence felt around the league in '79 with 6 quarterback sacks, 49½ tackles, 13 quarterback pressures, and a fumble recovery while making seven starts. Quick despite his size, Julius has helped build the Patriots' reputation as one of the best ''sack packs'' in the NFL. He had 9½ sacks in '77, including 4½ in front of his home town fans against the Falcons in Atlanta. He was the Patriots' leading sacker in 1974, and was named the Pro Magazine that year as one of the NFL's top defensive linemen. He was also chosen in 1971 to the UPI all-rookie team. Julius, who has played end, tackle, and linebacker during his illustrious Patriots career, is one of the four active members of the team to have played more than 100 games (107) in a Patriots uniform. Julius and his wife Yvonne are the parents of three sons, Julius III (9), Chris (5), and Keith (1). In the off season, the Jewel operates a farm in the Macon, GA area.

ANDY JOHNSON - RB Georgia
6′-204 Born 10-18-52 Athens, GA

The story of Andy Johnson's career, tragically, has been marred by injuries. One of the more versatile money players in the NFL, the amiable Georgian has had knee problems repeatedly during his 5-year career. It was in the fifth game of the season, a stunning loss to Green Bay, that Andy was sidelined for the year with an injury which required surgery. Aware of his enormous value as a running back and pass receiver, Patriots players and fans were hopeful that Andy could bounce back again in 1980, as he did in 1978 after missing all of 1977 with another of those knee problems. Andy was a strong contributor to that great Patriots' offense in 1978, carrying the ball 147 times for 675 yards and a 4.6 average. He also collected 26 passes for 267 yards. Andy had enjoyed a similarly productive year in 1976, when he scored 10 touchdowns while carrying the ball a yard short of 700 yards in 169 cracks. It was in '76 that Andy was presented the Unsung Hero Award by the Patriots 1776 Fan Club. Married (Charlotte) and the parents of a daughter, Kristy, and a son, Brent, Andy is active in area charity work and is a fine tennis player.

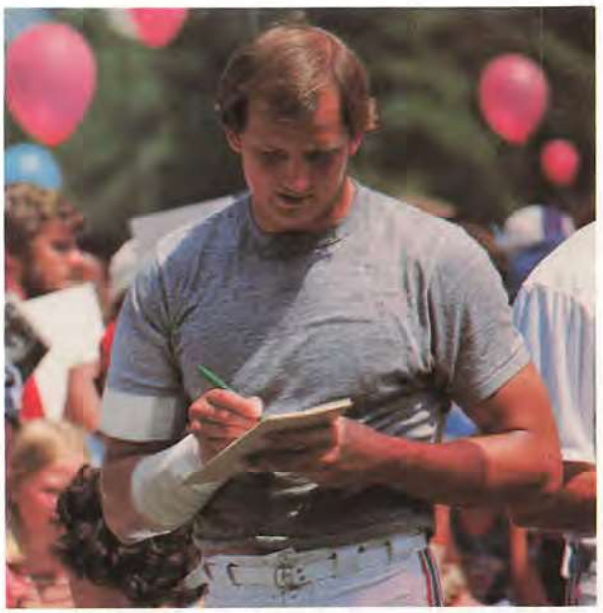


DWIGHT WHEELER - OT Tennessee State
6′ 3″-255 Born 1-13-55

Injuries so far have marred ''Whimpy's'' chances to make it big as an offensive tackle in the NFL. Sidelined for most of 1978 after breaking his ankle in the second game of the season, Dwight nevertheless was tapped as Leon Gray's replacement at the beginning of last year. He played well in spots despite injuries which continued to plague him. He finally was forced out of the lineup after 10 games and saw only occasional duty in the remaining games on the schedule. Unmarried, Dwight continues to work toward his college degree, and in fact would like to become a teacher-coach when his playing days are over.

DON HASSELBECK - TE Colorado
6′ 7″-245 Born 4-1-55 Cincinnati, OH

Big Don has played in the shadow of Russ Francis since joining the Patriots in 1977, but has tremendous potential, according to Receiver Coach Raymond Berry. Don started his NFL career on a high note, scoring 4 touchdowns on just 9 receptions as a rookie. Last year, the big receiver pulled in 13 passes for 158 yards (a 12.2 average), his longest for 41 yards. Don and his wife Betsy are the parents of two young sons, Matthew and Tim. Besides playing ball, Don is an accomplished artist, having staged a one-man show in Boston last year. He attends the Rhode Island School of Design and spends his free time painting and running.



PRENTICE McCRAY - SS Arizona State
6′ 1″-190 Born 3-1-51

A valuable member of the Patriots' defensive secondary since 1974, Prentice has been dogged by injuries for the past couple of seasons. Nevertheless, he appeared in 14 games in 1979, starting six times. Despite his injuries, Prentice snagged three interceptions last year and contributed 21½ tackles and a sack. The Arizona State alumnus enjoyed great seasons in 1976 and 1977. In '76, he led the AFC in interception returns (5 for 182 yards), and in one game (against the Jets) set a team record by returning two interceptions for touchdowns. In 1977, he led the secondary in number of plays (891) while making 47 tackles and four interceptions. Prentice and his wife Casandra are the parents of one-year-old Prentice, Jr. The veteran defender spends the off season in the Tempe, Arizona area.

BOB CRYDER - OG Alabama
6′ 4″-265 Born 9-7-56 East St. Louis, Ill.

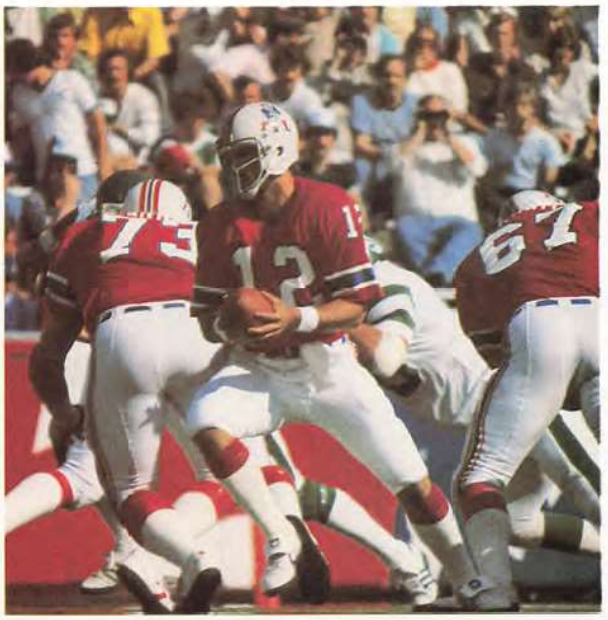
Plagued by a chronic wrist injury which eventually required surgery, Bob missed most of his rookie year as a Patriot, but came back in '79 to play in all 16 regular season games. He started the final two games of the campaign against the Jets and Vikings after Sam Adams injured his ankle. In fact, it was predicted by Coach Ron Erhardt that those two men would be battling it out this year for the starting right guard post. Bob, the Patriots' first pick in the 1978 draft, followed in the footsteps of teammate John Hannah at Alabama. Single, he resides in O'Fallon, Illinois (a suburb of St. Louis) during the off season and enjoys fishing and collecting guns.

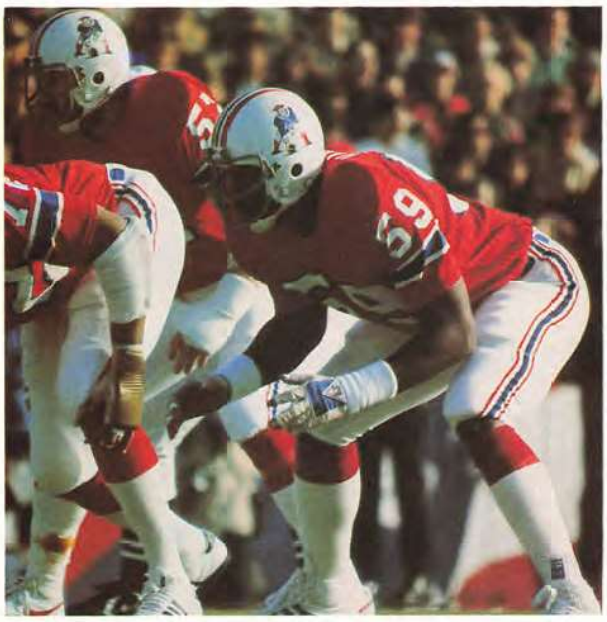
ALLAN CLARK - RB/KR Northern Arizona
5′ 10″-186 Born 6-8-57 Grand Rapids, MN

One of the really pleasant surprises of 1979 for Patriots' fans, hard-running Allan Clark emerged from the obscurity of the special teams to become one of the team's most popular players. He did it with a combination of talent and enthusiasm which delighted not only the coaching staff and his teammates, but also the fans who appreciate the value of dedication to a team's morale. A 10th-round pick (271st overall in the draft, Allan was the top tackler on the kickoff coverage team with 10 stops. He ranked sixth in the AFC in kickoff returns with 816 yards on 37 carries for a 22.1 average. His best rushing day as a Patriot came against Baltimore November 18 when he racked up 65 yards in 9 carries, including a 15-yard touchdown run. The Minnesota native capped a fine first year in the pros by being named Patriots Rookie of the Year by the Patriots 1776 Fan Club. Allan and his wife Deborah are the parents of two young sons, Allan Jr. and Michael. In his spare hours, Allan enjoys hunting and fishing.

MATT CAVANAUGH - Q Pittsburgh
6' 1"-210 Born 10-27-56 Youngstown, OH

Impressive in his limited appearances as a Patriot, Matt Cavanaugh is a young quarterback of undeniable promise whose pro career has stuttered because of knee problems. Now in his third year, he's expected to become the primary backup to Steve Grogan and make a strong bid for game time. So far, except for a brief stint against the Jets in '79, Matt has played mostly as a placekick holder for John Smith. Matt joined the Patriots in 1978 after putting together a truly brilliant career at Pitt, where he holds records for the most passing touchdowns in a game (5, vs Duke in 1976), the most TD passes in a season (15 in 1977) and the highest offensive production for a single game (370 yards vs Duke in 1976). He pitched four scoring passes against Clemson in the '77 Gator Bowl to win MVP honors. As a junior, he led Pitt to a Sugar Bowl win over Georgia and to a national championship. Single, he works as a management trainee in a Pittsburgh bank during the off season, and enjoys golf and racquetball in his spare time.





MIKE HAWKINS - OLB Texas I & I
6' 2"-232 Born 10-29-55 Bay City, TX

As he entered his third year as a pro, big Mike had a chance to establish himself as a fine NFL linebacker. After winning a starting spot last year, Mike got off to a splendid start, racking up 10 tackles and 5 sacks in his first two games against the Steelers and Jets. In all, Mike started 14 games and racked up 48 tackles. He also contributed two important interceptions against Miami October 21, returning one of them 35 yards for a touchdown. He had 6 tackles against the Jets in a late-season game.

DON WESTBROOK - WR Nebraska
5' 10"-184 Born 11-1-53

A handy man to have around, Don can play all of the receiver positions and is, in the words of Coach Raymond Berry, a "tough, durable clutch player." Now in his fourth year, Don had his best day in a Patriots uniform November 4, 1979, against the Bills at Buffalo, hauling in three passes for 65 yards. Don also finished as the team's third best kickoff returner, running back 11 boots for 151 yards. Don played briefly with Baltimore, Tampa Bay, and Philadelphia in the defunct World Football League before joining the Pats in 1977. Married, Don enjoys working in the Special Olympics program.

The SOUNDS of SUMMER

At the Patriots' no-nonsense training camp, even the popsicles meant business.

The sounds come tumbling across the open fields, jarring the serenity of a summer afternoon in rural Rhode Island. Linemen slamming into tackling dummies, grunting with the effort: alien sounds in a time and place where it would seem more sensible just to sit back, tilt a cold one, and lift your chin to the breeze.

But the Patriots didn't come down to Bryant College to smell the flowers. They came on business.

For veterans like Grogan and Francis, Jackson and Hannah, summer camp is a time for fine tuning established skills.

For people like Chuck Foreman, late (and long) of the Minnesota Vikings, it's a case of starting over again with new people, a new system, and a new place in the scheme of things.

For rookies like Vagas Ferguson and Roland James, it's a matter of proving that you belong.

"It's very businesslike," says Ferguson, the high draft choice out of Notre Dame, a cheerful, enthusiastic young man. "There's something constructive going on all the time, on the field and off."

High draft choice or not, Ferguson knows there are plenty of good running backs in camp. The press clippings won't help.

"I have to work hard," he says, "as hard as I did when I started out at Notre Dame. Whatever they want me to do, I'll do it."

Same for Roland James, the number one pick from Tennessee.

It's tough," he says. "A lot of work. Like starting all over again. There's a lot of mental effort with the pros. And yes, everything's more businesslike."

The two rookies are right. It is a very businesslike scene — tougher, oldtimers say, than the usual Patriots camp.

In one corner, Steve Grogan and Matt Cavanaugh are playing quarterback in stereo. Lined up side by side, they take snaps, drop back, and fire look-ins to two receivers, then repeat the exercise with two more receivers.

A few yards away, skeleton teams are running a pass play. A flanker shakes loose in the flat. There's nobody within 15 yards of him.

"We can't win that way," yelps defensive backfield coach Billy Kinard, affronted by the spectacle of an open receiver.

Upper left: Everything creaks at this time of year.
Lower left: Harold Jackson cools it with a popsicle.
Right: On the first full day of camp, heads got knocked.

John Smith, the placekicker, jogs by. A visitor stops him and launches a conversation about conditioning for a placekicker versus conditioning for, say, a middle linebacker.

"Oh, a kicker has to be in top shape," John says in his measured British way. "That ball has to explode from his foot. It's a function of his whole body." He mimes a placekick. "Explode!" he says.

"Besides," he adds, "sometimes you have to make tackles. I made five last year." He thinks about it for a moment. "That's five too many."

In a West Point drill, a bone-jarring confrontation between a blocker and a would-be tackler, John Hannah handles his man with a deft combination of strength and quickness, then stalks away, muttering. Seeking perfection, Hannah finds himself wanting in some subtle way, and is irked.

Even something as apparently frivolous as the popsicle break becomes businesslike when it's pointed out that popsicles provide both a quick source of energy (sugar) and a way to restore moisture to the body without bloat.

Foreman, the new guy, has come to camp sleek as a panther, ready for business.

"I worked out," he says, explaining the loss of 21 pounds, "and stuck with fish and poultry."

Allan Clark, the second-year running back whose exuberance made such a hit with Patriots fans in '79, has lost none of his verve. In the West Point drill, he goes pounding up the slot, evading a tackle, and jogs back, grinning like Huck Finn.

"One down," he says, "nine to go."

In a way, summer camp is like a symphony orchestra tuning up. The woodwinds here, the brass there, the percussionists down the line, thumping away in separate little clusters, looking for the rhythm . . . the beat. Getting it together.

There is a difference. With the orchestra, the instrumentalists have already made the team. At training camp, there are 85 prospects, half of whom will vanish before the curtain rises in September.

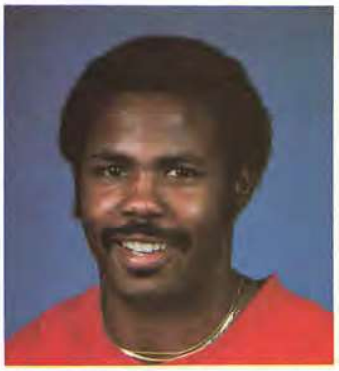
People like Harold Jackson can do their work without worrying about things like making the squad. He can banter with Stanley Morgan and Russ Francis, secure in the memory of a 1,000-yard season in '79.

But for the rookies and free agents and some of the veterans, life in camp is deadly serious. For these people, the sounds of summer are the grunts and sighs and curses of trying to make it in the NFL. ■

The Top Draftees:

Stars of Tomorrow?

Of the 12 college players drafted by the Patriots in 1980, several wear "can't miss" labels. Among those tabbed as future stars are the Patriots' top four selections — Roland James, Vagas Ferguson, Larry McGrew, and Steve McMichael. Get to know them. You could be seeing a lot of them in the seasons to come.



VAGAS FERGUSON - RB Notre Dame
6' 1"-194 Born 3-6-57

One of two first-round draft choices, Vagas brings tremendous credentials to the Patriots, having wound up his college career as the leading rusher in Notre Dame history with 3,472 yards. He also holds the Irish record for most yards rushing in one game (255 vs Georgia Tech in 1979). The only running back in Notre Dame history to record two 200-yard rushing games, Vagas was named to seven All-America teams.

ROLAND JAMES - DB Tennessee
6' 2"-189 Born 2-2-58

The 14th player selected overall in the 1980 draft, Roland was an All-American at Tennessee — the Volunteers' first in three years. As a collegian, he picked off 10 interceptions and made 288 career tackles as a four-year starter. He joins Stanley Morgan, another Tennessee alumnus and All-Pro wide receiver, on the Patriots roster.

LARRY McGREW - OLB USC
6' 3"-231 Born 7-23-57

Ranked by most teams as the best outside linebacker prospect in the 1980 draft, Larry chalked up 138 tackles, nine sacks, and four fumble recoveries in three varsity years at Southern Cal. Particularly adept at blitzing and open field tackling, Larry was voted the team's defensive MVP by USC coaches in 1979.

STEVE McMICHAEL - NT Texas
6' 1"-245 Born 10-17-57

Named on eight All-America squads, Steve was a tremendously productive performer at Texas, racking up 372 tackles and 30 sacks over a four-year career. The native Texan was named the defensive MVP in the 1980 Hula Bowl game, and also was named to the AP All-Strength team.

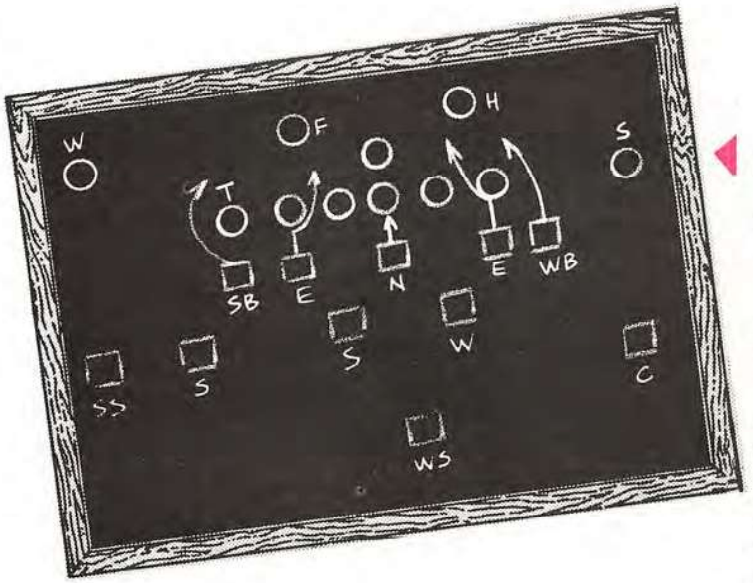
CHALKBOARD STRATEGY

A glance at two of the key offensive and defensive maneuvers which the Patriots execute particularly well — plays to look for while you're watching the team in action.

Chaotic though the action may appear to the casual eye, virtually everything that happens on a football field is the result of a carefully planned attack countered by an equally well-conceived defense.

Theoretically, every offensive play should result in a score. Conversely, every defensive strategy should stop the offense cold in its tracks.

The fact is, it rarely happens either way, and this is part of the game's appeal . . . the myriad possibilities that spin out of every snap of the ball. Nevertheless, teams do work out perfect strategies, at least on their blackboards. Here are a couple of basic examples from the Patriots' playbook.

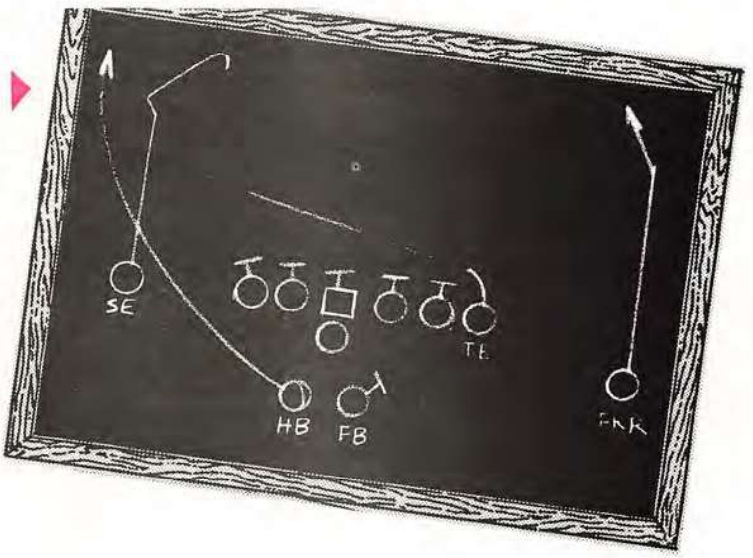


Patriots' Basic Man-for-Man Pass Coverage

The nose tackle makes a "bull rush," keeping the quarterback in front of him. The ends rush over tackle, making late inside moves. The strong linebacker keys on the tight end and the ball and rushes with containment. The weak linebacker keys on the opposing halfback and the ball, and also rushes with containment. The "sam" backer covers the fullback man-to-man, and the "will" backer covers the halfback man-to-man. The strong cornerback covers the wing man-to-man and can expect deep post help from the weak safety. The weak corner covers the split end man-to-man and he, too, can expect deep post help from the weak safety. The strong safety covers the tight end man-to-man, with help, as needed, from the weak safety; and the weak safety covers the deep middle area and furnishes post help as needed.

Offensive Pass Options

The split end runs a curl pattern 18 yards deep, while the tight end releases shallow and stops 6 yards deep. The halfback runs a swing pattern, and the fullback blocks any blitz which develops on his side. If the opposition is emphasizing a zone defense, the pass should be good to the split end or tight end. The quarterback should key on the linebacker who is zone defending in the tight end-split end area. If the linebacker drops deep, the pass goes to the tight end. If he sticks close, the pass goes to the split end. If there's a blitz, the pass should go on a post pattern to the flanker.



FARGO'S YEAR *(continued from page 6)*

There's no doubt that the Pats have the people to achieve both their offensive and defensive goals, especially in the wake of another splendid draft which produced such exceptional talent as Ferguson, Roland James, Larry McGrew, Steve McMichael, Doug McDougald, and Preston Brown. Some of those young horses unquestionably will make the team, and a few could make it big.

How about the AFL East? Erhardt calls it the "speed division" because it features such human projectiles as Miami's Duriel Harris and Nat Moore, the Jets' Wesley Walker and Lam Jones, and Baltimore's Curtis Dickey, not to mention the Patriots' own Morgan and Jackson.

Erhardt thinks the Patriots have the people to win the division. The playoffs? A painful subject, for sure. Erhardt is aware of a doleful fact of Patriots' life — the fact that the team has never won a postseason game.

"I just want to get into the playoffs and win that first one," he said, "to prove to ourselves and everyone else that we can do it."

If the Pats "do" it, it will be Fargo's triumph, as well as a kind of absolution for a superior though star-crossed team.

If enthusiasm, talent, and determination prevail, 1980 could represent the beginning of a bright new decade for New England professional football. And a helluva sophomore year for the man from North Dakota. ■

the Spirits of New England *(continued from center section)*

Coordinator Callahan cast a careful eye on the girls' silhouettes throughout their training period, and even set weight goals for each member of the squad.

Whatever their own private and individual reasons for trying out for the squad, the girls really share a love for the excitement of pro football. Lisa Matta of Brockton, a former Miss Massachusetts, scoffs at the notion that the girls may not know — or care — much about the more arcane aspects of the professional game.

"We tried out because we wanted to cheer for the Patriots," says the loyal New Englander. We have to know what's going on. Our routines are related to the flow of the game."

"My husband knows we're out there to support the Patriots," says Cheryl Ann Carey of Medford. "I started cheering when we were dating, and he thought it was great. Still does!"

In fact, there seems to be little jealousy or resentment among the husbands and boyfriends of the Spirits. According to Gail Callahan, most of the girls "were encouraged" by the men in their lives.

Cheering can be a tough business, even after the routines have become routine. One day last year, the girls swear the temperature on the artificial Schaefer turf registered 131 degrees, and the heat burned through their boots. The heat, for that matter, can be much more uncomfortable than the cold, which can be more or less neutralized by warm jackets and strenuous activity.

For those interested in statistics (and not just the obvious ones), here are some figures relating to the 1980 Spirits:

They range in age from 18 to 28. The average age is 22.

Their average height is 5'6".

Five are married, and one is the mother of an infant daughter.

Twenty-nine live in Massachusetts, 3 in Rhode Island, 2 in Connecticut, and one each in New York, Maine, and New Hampshire.

Thirteen are college graduates, 11 attended college, 11 are in college at present, and 2 are enrolled in Master's Degree programs.

Twenty-one have brown hair, 8 are blondes, and 7 have black tresses. Only one is a readhead.

The squad includes 3 sets of sisters, including one set of identical twins.

And oh, one more thing . . .

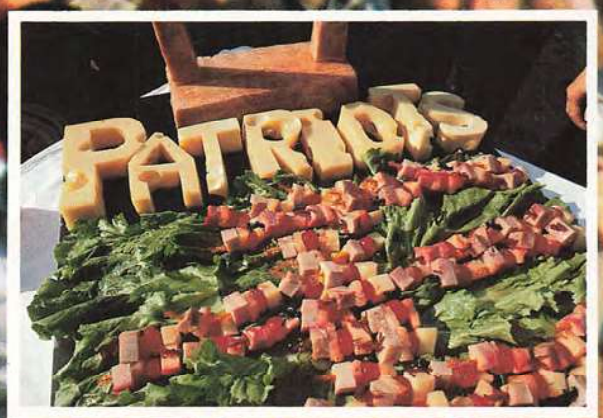
All 37 are beautiful.

But you've already noticed that. ■

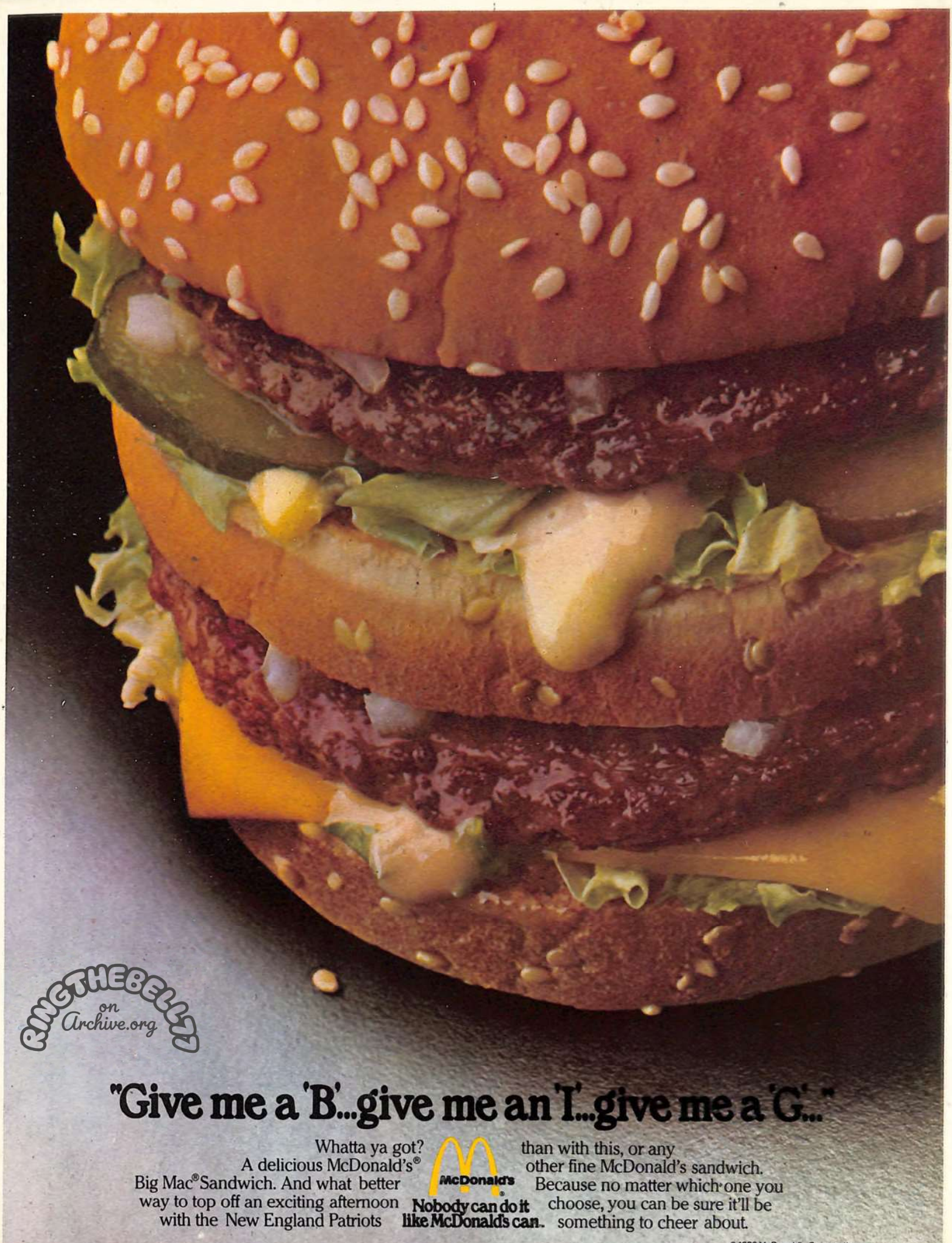
A Special and Heartfelt Thanks . . .

To the people who have made the most important contribution of all to the success of the Patriots: The loyal fans of New England.

— The New England Patriots



1980 Get up for it!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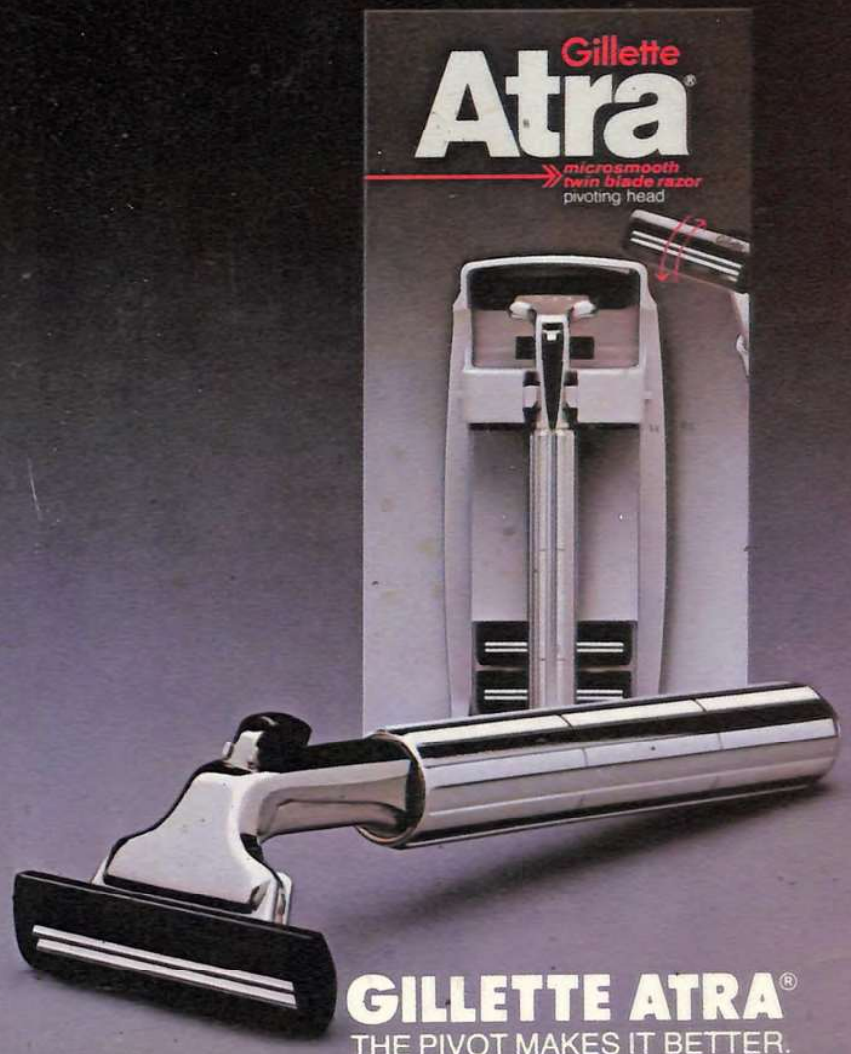
"DO THEY PIVOT IN BOSTON?"



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